

POPULAR

Computing

40 Rock, C

35p 22 December 1983-4 January 1984 Vol 2 No 51

This Week

Commodore 64 games

Mike Grace puts hand to joystick as he reviews another selection of CBM 64 games. See page 16.

Christmas cards

Keith and Steve Brain present a program which enables you to print your own Christmas cards on the Dragon 32. See page 24.

Prolog

David Kelly talks to Keith Clark, co-author of micro-Prolog for the Spectrum, about the program's development. See page 13.

New releases

All the latest software games including Two Gun Turtle from Lothlorien and Kick Off from Bubble Bus. See page 64.

STAR

Santa's Mission on 16/48K Spectrum. See page 10.

GAME

Classified

Computer Swap
01-437 4343

Free readers entries to buy or sell a computer. Ring 01-437 4343 and give us the details.

AQUARIUS
SEE PAGE 59

VALHALLA

News Desk

Spiderman to star in new adventure

ADVENTURE International has concluded a deal with the Marvel Comics Group to put characters from the comics into a new range of adventure games.

The agreement means that many of the Marvel comic book heroes — Spiderman, the Incredible Hulk, Dr Strange, the Fantastic Four, the X-Men, and many more — will be featured in future

Adventure International programs.

The idea is to link the launch of each adventure game with the publication of a Marvel comic illustrating the story.

The first of the Marvel adventure games will appear in May. Versions of each program will be developed to run on the Atari, Commodore 64, Spectrum, BBC and Electron machines.

The Atari and Commodore titles will be written in the US while the Spectrum and Acorn conversions will be carried out in this country by Adventure International UK.

The UK branch, formed by

Cont. p. 5



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THE INVADERS STRIKE BACK, a fast Invader game for BBC model B, only £2.95. 1, Bray, 10 Burnsides, Coventry, W. Midlands.

Continued on page 57

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POPULAR Computing

WEEKLY

22 December 1983-4 January 1984 Vol 2 No 51



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News Editor	David Kelly
Software Editor	Graham Taylor
Production Editor	Lynne Constable
Editorial Secretary	Cleo Cherry
Advertisement Manager	David Lake
Advertisement Executive	Alastair MacIntosh
Classified Executive	Diane Davis
Advertising Production	Lucinda Lee
Administration	Theresa Lucy
Managing Editor	Duncan Scott
Publishing Director	Jenny Ireland

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All submissions should be typed and a double space should be left between each line. Please leave wide margins.

Programs should, whenever possible, be computer printed.

We cannot guarantee to return every submitted article or program, so please keep a copy. If you want to have your own program returned you must include a stamped, addressed envelope.

Accuracy

Popular Computing Weekly cannot accept any responsibility for any errors in programs we publish, although we will always try our best to make sure programs work.

This Week

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Editorial

To those of us brought up on a diet of comic-book heroes, the link-up between Marvel and Adventure International comes as no surprise.

The Incredible Hulk, Thor, Spiderman, The X-Men and the rest have been battling evil-doers for 30 years or more. They have appeared in countless comics, books, tv series and films. It is about time they appeared on computer too.

What is perhaps more surprising is the fact that these superheroes continue to appeal to each succeeding generation of adolescents. Why should an irradiated green monster, and his mild-mannered alter ego Dr Bannister, be so popular? Just what is the attraction of the web-shooting Spiderman who spends almost as much time worrying about girlfriends and Aunt May as he does fighting crime?

Perhaps part of the answer lies in the split personalities assumed by most of the superheroes. Thor, Hulk, Spiderman *et al* appear as quite ordinary, often mundane, people in their everyday lives. Their secret identities are known only to a few trusted friends and, of course, the reader.

Whatever the reason for the success of these 'wunderkind', there is no doubt that they are as popular today as they were in the 1950s. Their appearance on computers should increase that popularity still further.

Next Thursday

This double issue of *Popular Computing Weekly* will last for two weeks. The next edition will appear on 5 January, 1984.

Finally, a very merry Christmas to all our readers.

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Adventure

Continued from page 1

Mike Woodroffe a year ago, has spent its time so far producing Spectrum and Acorn conversions of the existing 12 Scott Adams adventures. All the conversion work on these programs has been undertaken by Digital Fantasia founder Brian Howarth and it is likely that he will be involved in work on the Marvel comic programs.



Scott Adams

Adventure International UK has recently released the first four Scott Adams adventures for the BBC machine: *Adventureland*, *Voodoo Castle*, *Pirate Adventure* and *Secret Mission*, each priced at £7.95. The first Spectrum titles — *Adventureland* and *Pirate Adventure*, both £9.95, will include graphics and appear in January 1984.

The remaining Scott Adams adventures will be released one by one until, towards the end of 1984, all 12 will be available for the BBC, Electron and 48K Spectrum computers.

ITV says 'No' to micro

THE independent television companies have decided not to market an ITV micro.

At a meeting held in London on Monday, December 12, representatives of the ITV companies voted against a plan to offer a rival for the BBC's Acorn computer. Talks have been in progress for some time between the ITV companies and London computer manufacturer Transam, with a

Monopoly game makers in new battle

AUTOMATA has launched an appeal for funds to help continue its legal battle with board-game makers Waddingtons over its property-trading computer game *Auto-monopoly*.

On Tuesday last week the disagreement, which began in June, took a more serious turn when Waddingtons began legal proceedings against Automata to gain an injunction to stop sales of the Automata game, pending a full trial planned for late January.

Prior to the new Waddingtons action it seemed that the dispute between the two companies had been settled. In July Automata agreed to change the name of its game on its advertisements and packaging from *Automonopoly* to *Go To Jail*. This followed a complaint from Waddingtons that the public might confuse the Automata computer game with its own box board-game *Monopoly*.

"As far as we knew then" commented Automata's Mel Croucher on Saturday, "that was the end of it. They knew we had *Go To Jail* out and the notice of the injunction hearing on Friday came as a complete surprise."

Although Waddingtons intends to proceed with its court action in January it has now agreed to drop its injunction

view to providing such a machine.

Two reasons have been given for the decision. First, the Broadcasting Act, under which the ITV companies operate, prohibits any form of sponsorship. The endorsement of an ITV micro, was considered to be a form of sponsorship rather than an extension of ITV's public service role.

Secondly, the ITV companies were concerned about the possible conflict of interest between an ITV micro and advertising from companies offering competing products.

"The tv companies see themselves as software providers — in the form of programmes — rather than as hardware providers," commented the Independent Television

attempt pending discussions between the two companies this Monday, December 19.

At present there are some 13 computer versions of property trading games on sale by software houses in the UK, and the renewed Waddington action against Automata seems to have arisen because the company is discussing with Parker Brothers the possibility of developing jointly an official computer version of *Monopoly*.

Automata however is claiming that the idea of a property trading game has passed into common usage. "You cannot patent words like 'go to jail' or 'chance,'" says Mel. Earlier this year Parker Brothers lost its rights to trademark the *Monopoly* name in the US. The US court decided that *Monopoly* had indeed passed into common usage. No such decision has been reached by a British court.

Automata has now launched a campaign to raise funds to fight its case. In so doing it has the support of the Computer Trade Association. CTA secretary Nigel Backhurst commented: "The Waddingtons action represents a major threat to the whole computing industry. If they win about 80 per cent of the games software in the market would become challenging."

Companies Association secretary, Ivor Stolliday.

He dismissed suggestions that individual ITV companies, originally in favour of the micro plan, might go ahead alone: "The debate has taken place at the most senior level and every company has come around — I think the decision will stick."

More robots

COLNE Robotics has been given more money by its backer, Prutec, to help it develop its low-cost computer-controlled robots.

The company has now been given a further £200,000 to add to the £150,000 it received in May 1981.

Colne manufactures the Zeeker micro turtle and a five-axes robot arm — the Armdroid 1.

Your robot

Continued from page 1

the three machines will arrive next and will sell for under £200. Although lacking the sophistication of Topo, Fred is still capable of remote control through an infra-red link.

Explained Prism's development manager Graham Daubney: "In the US the main thrust with Androbot development has been with the Apple



Graham Daubney

computer, but Prism is developing its own high-level robotics language to make the robots compatible with the BBC, Spectrum and Commodore 64 computers."

Androbot which manufactures Fred, Bob and Topo, was formed two years ago by Atari's founder Nolan Bushnell. Bushnell sold Atari to Warner Communications in 1979.

To supplement the arrival of the personal robots in the UK, Prism's associated publishing company ECC plans a new monthly magazine *Your Robot*, due to be launched in March.

1m Spectrums

SINCLAIR has announced the manufacture of its one-millionth Spectrum computer.

The record-breaking machine rolled off Timex's Dundee production line on December 9.



The Spectrum is fast catching up the ZX81 which has so far sold 1.1 million units — it is expected that the Spectrum will overtake the ZX81 in early February.

Since the Spectrum was launched sales have been running at an average of over 50,000 a month.

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LETTERS

Atic Atac solution

I am writing to claim to be the first person to complete Ultimate's new adventure, *Atic Atac*. After completing it in 20.06, I scored 33790 and finished 85 percent. My high score is 54870 and 95 percent.

The way to solve it is not, like Ultimate's other games, to simply blow all the monsters to bits, but to draw a map as you go. Hint: there are three pieces to the key — the round bit, one with 'AC' on it and one with '6'.

PS: My *Chuckie Egg* high score is 221,230.

Andrew Pennell
Essex

Save instruction

Thank you for publishing my letter in issue 48. Since then I have noticed a small error in my letter. I said that the machine code should be saved with:

SAVE "COPY" CODE 65115, 36

This is slightly wrong. It should be:

SAVE "COPY" CODE 65115, 37

This small error causes the last byte of the code to be missed out. The last byte is a "RET" instruction and without it the computer locks up after you type:

RANDOMIZE USR 65115

To save having to type the code in again just load the routine, type: Poke 65151, 201, and save the code again using the correct save instruction above. The routine should now work once loaded.

Karl Hampson
57 Harsnips
Birch Green
Skelmersdale
Lancs WN8 6QA

Dragon data files

Dragon discs have not been fully investigated yet, and the manual is only a preliminary version, so there are many points that have not yet been documented. One of these concerns the creating of data

files. If you use your discs for databases, then you will need to use a string variable in conjunction with the *Create* command, eg:

19 INPUT NAMES
20 CREATE NAMES, 255

This will create a Data file 255 bytes long with the file name of *Name\$*. However, if *Name\$ = " "* then you will create a file that cannot be accessed in the normal way. It will appear on the directory as ".DAT 255

No name? You may be able to *Read* it, that is to say *Sector Read* if you know where it lives. I suggest that you include another line in your program:

15 IF NAMES = " " THEN
GOTO 10

This will ensure you do not lose any valuable data files or waste disc space as you cannot *Kill* the file because it has no name.

Hywell Francis
TWM Software
8 Azalea Close
Cyncoed
Cardiff

Escape from Jaws

I would like to hear from anyone who has got past the sharks in *Aquaplane*. I already have and have now got to stage 6; stage 4 has the sharks while stage 5 includes logs, rocks, speed-boats and yachts. Stage 6 has logs, rocks, sharks and yachts. My score was 6600.

John Barnes
80 Trebarne Road
Treswithan
Camborne
Cornwall



"I'm sorry ITV aren't marketing a micro — I was rather looking forward to a second channel . . ."

Torture, slavery . . .

How can Mr Croucher denounce 'shoot 'em up' games in the same magazine as an Automata advertisement appears depicting torture, slavery, trickery and deceit, as well as a demented old Father Christmas on the verge of shooting himself? That is what is sick (and hilariously funny) — not *Space Invaders*.

What is more, the three commercial programmers that I know have never even contemplated mass murder (although software critics may sometimes drive them towards it).

I think, however, that if Mr Croucher genuinely holds this opinion, he does have a good point — but it is a great free pre-Christmas plug for Automata's non-violent games (so is this, I suppose). Anyway, up with Attila the Hun, Jack the Ripper, violent games and the Piman.

Michael Clark
16 South Street
South Petherton
Somerset TA13 5AD

PS. Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year to Automata and all the readers (that saved me a lot of Chrissy cards).

dangerously frustrating games as *Pimania* should be withdrawn from the market? Knowing Mel's feelings on protecting children, I am sure he will comply now I have made the facts clear to him.

James Hickman (15)
27 Fallow Walk
Spring Park
Northampton

High score answer

High scores — I have the answer:

1. Build a codeword generator into games that reveals a codeword unique to each individual score.
2. High scores can then be matched with the codeword and thus verified.
3. *Splat!* already does this in conjunction with a £500 competition.
4. Some day all arcade games will be made this way.

Ian Andrew
Incentive Software
54 London Street
Reading Berks

Scrabble options

Whilst playing Scrabble the other night I accidentally pressed the wrong key(s) and discovered two more 'options' not shown in the accompanying instruction booklet. These are *D* which gives you the letter distribution and *T* which gives you the tile values.

I also achieved a draw (the impossible?) against my Spectrum and the program self-destructed. Is this a bug, Psion's revenge or just my Spectrum getting tired as usual??

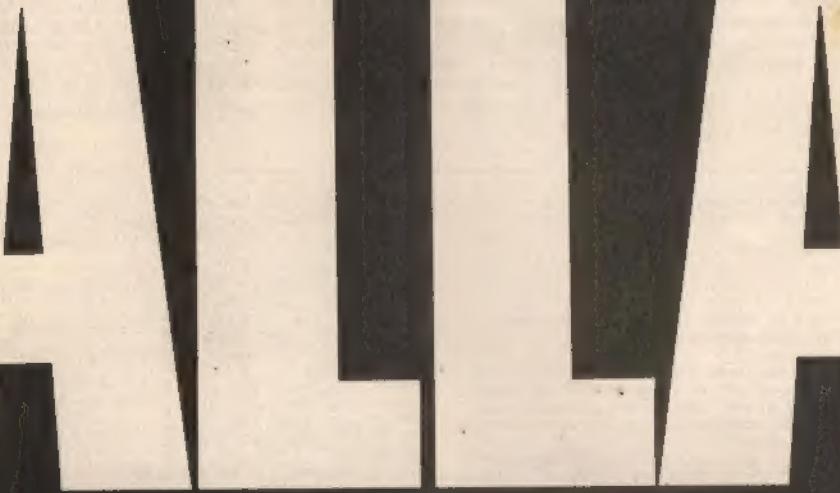
Robert Steele
27 Fields Road
Wootton
Beds MK43 9JJ

Scrabble obviously still has a few idiosyncrasies waiting to be discovered, though these should not detract from an otherwise excellent program.

WALL

48K SPECTRUM





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POP/W/51

Santa's Mission

A new game for 16/48K Spectrum by Paul Sellin

The object of the game, for 16K or 48K Spectrum, is to get Santa safely off his sleigh and on to a chimney-top. He must then visit every room where he will put down a present.

He can climb up and down chimneys and ladders, but he must be quick as his

escape route can be filled-in behind him! Santa can also dig (using key D) and eat food from the tables on the ground-floor (key E). Beware of getting drunk, as his stumbling will wake up the family if he goes upstairs, and if Santa is too fat he will not fit up the chimney.

Movement is by Q and A for up and down, and Z and X for left and right. Q will also call up the sleigh when Santa is on a chimney-top, and it will also let him jump on to the sleigh to win the game when every present has been put down.

```

98 REM SANTA'S MISSION
91 REM NOVEMBER 1983
92 REM
93 REM SELLSOFT
94
95
96
100 LET ht$= PAPER $: BORDER 11 INK $: BRIGHT $:
FLASH $1 FLASH $1 INVERSE $1 CLS
101 LET t$=: LET e=.05
102 GO SUB 600$: GO SUB 8200
110 BORDER 1: LET y=-2: LET x=1: LET drop=0: LET jump
=0: LET splat=0: LET str=0: LET gr=0: LET dex=0: LET
tot=12: LET ox=1: LET oy=1: LET cx=1: LET cy=1
115 LET flag=0: LET p$="WALK"
116 LET p$="WALK"
117 LET p$="WALK"
118 LET w$=INKEY$: IF w$="" THEN GO TO 700
121 LET x=x+(w$="l")-(w$="r")
123 IF w$="u" THEN LET y=y+1
130 IF w$="q" AND y=2 THEN GO TO 5000
133 IF y=4 AND w$="q" AND a$(y,x)="B" THEN LET y=y-
1: GO SUB 6701 GO TO 1000
135 IF y>4 THEN IF w$="q" AND a$(y-1,x)="A" OR a$(y-
2,x)="B" THEN LET y=y-1: GO SUB 6701 GO TO 1000
140 IF w$="d" THEN GO TO 1700
200 IF a$(y,x)="C" THEN GO TO 1200
210 GO SUB 4000
210 IF a$(y+1,x)=": " OR a$(y+1,x)="?" OR a$(y+1,x)="/"
THEN GO TO 1400
225 IF a$(y,x)="?" AND dex<5 THEN GO TO 1600
230 IF w$="e" AND a$(y,x)="/" THEN GO TO 1500
235 IF a$(y,x)="/" THEN GO TO 1000
295 GO TO 800
700 IF NOT str THEN GO TO 9000
    
```

```

702 IF RND>.6 THEN GO TO 800
705 LET j=RND*6+7: LET k=RND*3+1
710 IF a$(j,k)="-" OR a$(j,k)="7" OR a$(j,k)="B" THEN
GO TO 720
715 GO TO 800
720 IF a$(j+1,k)="-" OR a$(j+1,k)="7" OR a$(j+1,k)-
"8" THEN LET j=j+1: GO TO 720
725 PRINT INK 11 AT j+4,k-1;"C": LET a$(j,k)="C"
830 IF tot=8 THEN BORDER 2
840 LET ox=1: LET oy=1: LET cx=1: LET cy=1
850 GO TO 120
870 IF y>16 THEN LET y=16
880 IF y<1 THEN LET y=1
890 IF x>31 THEN LET x=31
895 IF x<1 THEN LET x=1
900 RETURN
1000 LET str=str-.1: GO SUB 2100
1010 IF str<0 THEN GO TO 9000
1020 IF a$(y,x)=="B" AND gir>5 THEN LET y=y+1: BEEP
.05,.05: BEEP .05,.05: GO TO 800
1030 GO SUB 4000
1035 BEEP .05,.25: GO TO 800
1210 LET x=cx: LET y=cy
1220 BEEP .05,.12: BEEP .05,.12
1230 GO TO 800
1400 LET oy=1: LET ox=1
1405 LET cx=1
1410 LET y=y+1: GO SUB 4000: LET oy=y: LET com=com+1: IF
a$(y+1,x)!=" " AND a$(y+1,x)<>"?" THEN LET str=str-
com/5: GO SUB 2100: GO TO 1400
1415 IF com>4 THEN LET splat=1
1420 GO TO 1410
1430 IF flag THEN RETURN
1432 IF NOT splat THEN GO TO 800
    
```



```

1435 PRINT INK 21 PAPER 5; FLASH 21AT y+4,z-3)*SPLAT*: FOR q=12 TO # STEP -1: BEEP (.12-q)/26,q-13: NEXT q
1448 GO TO 7889
1505 BEEP .1,12: BEEP .1,12: BEEP .1,12: BEEP .1,12: BEEP .1,12
1511 LET no=RND*3+11: IF RND>.5 THEN GO TO 1525
1515 PRINT 881AT 8,81" F O U N D T H E S H E R R Y "
1517 FOR j=1 TO no: PRINT 881;"D "j: NEXT j: PRINT
1522 LET str=stry+no2: LET dex=dex-no: GO SUB 2889: GO SUB 2189: GO TO 1533
1522 PRINT 881AT 8,81"O T T H E M I N C E P I E "
1534 FOR j=1 TO no: PRINT 881;"!": NEXT j: PRINT :
LET str=stry+no2: LET greg=greg+no: GO SUB 2189: GO SUB 2289
1535 LET ab(y,x)="
1540 PRINT AT y+4,x-11"8"AT y+3,x-11"8"
1541 FOR j=1 TO 150: NEXT j
1545 PRINT 881AT 8,81"
1550 GO TO 688
1555 IF RND>dex THEN GO TO 1678
1568 LET tot=dex: PRINT FLASH 11 INK 21 PAPER 4!AT 2,81" Careful - You're drunk!! "1 PAUSE 200: PRINT AT 2,81" "1 GO TO 688
1573 PRINT INK 21 FLASH 11AT 8,81" W H O D F S "
The kids woke up and got you!! "1 PAUSE 3000 GO TO 7888
1705 BEEP .88,81: BEEP .88,81: BEEP .88,18
1710 PRINT 881AT 8,81"Direction to digit? CAPS for down
Normal for sideways"
1715 LET q=INKEY$: IF q<>" " OR (q<>"Z" AND q<>"X" AND q<>"A" AND q<>"D") THEN GO TO 1715
1720 LET dx=x-(q8="X" OR q8="X")-(q8="Z" OR q8="Z")
LET dy=y-(q8="Y" OR q8="Y")-(q8="A" OR q8="D")
1725 INPUT INKEY$
1746 FOR v=1 TO 4:RND*v: LET tot=v: LET str=str-.2: LET greg=greg-.2: LET dex=dex-.2: GO SUB 2889: GO SUB 2189: GO SUB 2289: GO SUB 4889: BEEP .88,81: BEEP .88,81: BEEP .88,18
1748 IF str=<0 THEN GO TO 7888
1747 NEXT v
1750 GO SUB 4829: LET a8(dy-1,dx+1)=": LET a8(dy,dx)=":1 PRINT AT dy+3,dx-11"8"AT dy+4,dx-11"8"1 GO SUB 4829
1760 GO TO 688
1765 LET t=t+8+str: LET oy=y: LET ox=x: PRINT OVER 11 INK 21AT y+4,x-11"8"
1770 LET tot=tot-1: LET a8(y,x)=":1 GO TO 688
1780 BEEP .88,12: BEEP .88,12: BEEP .88,18: BEEP .88,16: BEEP .88,19: BEEP .88,19
2001 IF dex>18 THEN LET dex=18
2002 IF dex<0 THEN LET dex=0
2003 IF dex>5 THEN PRINT BRIGHT 11 FLASH 11 PAPER 5!AT 8,18!INT dex!FLASH 81"1 RETURN
2010 PRINT BRIGHT 11 PAPER 5!AT 8,10!INT dex!"
2105 IF str>10 THEN LET str=10
2110 PRINT BRIGHT 11 PAPER 6!AT 8,81!INT str!+1" "
2115 RETURN
2205 IF greg>0 THEN LET greg=0
2210 PRINT BRIGHT 11 PAPER 4!AT 8,27!INT greg
2220 RETURN
4810 PRINT OVER 11AT dy+4,dx-11"8"AT dy+3,dx-11"8"
4820 PRINT OVER 11AT y+4,x-11"8"AT y+3,x-11"8"
4830 RETURN
5005 LET flag=0
5010 LET p8="JXL "
5015 LET com1: LET s=1: FOR r=31 TO 1 STEP -1
5020 LET r8=p8+r TO 31:r8=r1 TO r-1: LET l8=p8+r TO 31:r8=r1 TO r-1: LET s8=s+1: PRINT INK 21AT 2,81!PRINT
5025 IF flag THEN GO TO 5095
5035 IF INKEY(>"<" AND INKEY(>">")>">" THEN GO TO 5095
5031 BEEP .88,12
5033 IF y>2 THEN GO TO 5156
5044 LET y=y-3: GO SUB 4889: IF x8>0 THEN GO TO 5288
5045 BEEP .88,81: BEEP .88,81: LET flag=1: GO SUB 4829: GO SUB 1418: GO SUB 4829: GO TO 5095
5095 IF str=<0 THEN GO TO 5088
5095 NEXT r: IF NOT flag THEN GO TO 5015
5105 LET flag=0: PRINT AT 2,81" "1 AT 3,81"
5110 LET x=s: REM IF s<4 THEN LET x=31+x
5115 LET dy=y: LET ox=x: LET p8="JXL "
5115 LET flag=1: GO SUB 1418: PRINT AT 1,x-1" "1 GO TO 5095

```



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And now the Prolog

David Kelly talks to Keith Clark, co-author of micro-Prolog

Artificial intelligence is no longer a dirty word in computing circles.

The days when the subject was regarded as being a preoccupation of woolly academics and of little practical use are long gone. On the contrary, AI is now one of the most important areas of computer development. Japan's Fifth Generation project is dedicating much of its energies in this direction and a great deal of interest has been shown in so-called expert systems — a practical off-shoot of AI research.

It is this sort of work which now enables a robot not only to pick things up, but to carry on undaunted even if the object to be collected has fallen over and rolled from its proper position. The computer system driving the robot can immediately work out what has happened and alter its commands to pick up from the new position.

The reason AI has caused a great deal of excitement is that this type of reaction is pretty much what a human would do in the same circumstances — hence the term artificial intelligence.

One of the people closely associated with the AI field is Keith Clark at Imperial College, London. He says: "Robots can now plan for change."

"These so-called flexible robot systems mean that a machine can, for example, take a series of components in any order and still be able to assemble them together."

These sorts of techniques are now also beginning to appear in the more established areas of computing — word processing and data-base management.

The interesting thing about AI research and its developments is that they are the results of a whole new way of thinking about computers representing a radical departure from traditional programming methods.

AI programming is based around the manipulation of words and concepts rather than of numerical information. The ideas involve communicating with the computer in ways much more closely aligned to natural language — beginning to approach the idea of talking to a computer in normal English.

This is called Logic Programming. Bob Kowalski, also at Imperial, is credited with much of the early work in this field. The crucial idea is to use sets of sentences as programs — symbolic logic rather than numeric logic.

Different ways of thinking produce different solutions to problems and AI research has produced a number of symbolic programming languages. Lisp is one, but the up-and-coming star is Prolog.

Prolog was first devised in 1972 by Colmerauer and Roussell, writing in Algol. The first version for a micro was written on a Sorcerer at Imperial by Frank McCabe in 1979.

Says Keith: "Prolog is about reasoning with statements, rather than with numbers."

"With a Basic program you have to work through the program to find out what it is doing. Prolog says what it is doing. A Prolog program looks like a description of what you want it to do."

If all this sounds rather strange, then it is probably better to look at a specific example. Consider the simple Basic program to print the greater of two numbers:

```
10 INPUT X, Y
20 IF X>Y THEN S
30 PRINT Y
40 GOTO 6
50 PRINT X
```

As a Prolog program this would be written as:

```
y greater-of (x y) if x LESS y
x greater-of (x y) if not x LESS y
```

Using the Prolog program is also quite self-explanatory. To find the greater of two numbers 3 and 10 use:

which (xx greater-of (5 10))

This is called Rule-Based programming. The logic goes back to Aristotle and the ancient Greeks, but more recently much work was achieved by the Logicians at the beginning of this century — people like Frege in Germany and Bertrand Russell in this country. However, it is only with the computers now available that much progress has been made.

Prolog has been selected by Japan as the language for its Fifth Generation research work in the Expert Systems field.

"As a programming language, Prolog has a number of advantages," says Keith. "It has a very simple syntax. It can be read much like English and has the semantics of normal sentences."

"As an example of the sort of things it can do, Rand in the US wrote a war-crisis simulation program in a similar rule-based language, Rosie. They were running it with all the American Generals there, but something was wrong with the strategy part of the program. They listed it out there and then and the language was sufficiently high-level for the Generals, who had no knowledge of programming, to point out where the logic in the program was wrong.

"If that program had been written in Pascal or Basic, then there is no way that would have been possible."

"Fundamentally, Prolog is describing, rather than instructing, unlike Basic. Prolog is termed a declarative language and it has no algorithms — For/Next loops and so on, as there are in Basic."

"It is only in the last 15 years that new work at Edinburgh has made symbolic

logic viable as a programming language. Prolog is just a formal version of symbolic logic, using predefined statements to build up sentences and using inferences with those sentences to find answers."

A development of this has been the intelligent database. This is a database that is capable of acquiring new knowledge as it goes along. If it doesn't know the answer to a question, it will ask questions itself to try and get the information to answer the problem. Such a database starts off empty and uses question and answer techniques to build up a store of 'experience'. It operates rather in the same way that a child learns.

In one sense, such an intelligent database can be thought of as a list processor, building up and rearranging lists of facts.

Since Frank McCabe and Keith Clark produced the first implementation on a micro in 1979, the versions of micro-Prolog have been continuously refined. There are now broadly three different versions of the language designed to work with the Z80, 68000 and 6502 processors. These versions have been further refined to produce specific implementations on the Apple, IBM and Osborne computers.

In November, the team produced its most sophisticated version yet — for the 48K Spectrum! Published by Sinclair Research, the cassette-based version of mi-



cro-Prolog costs £24.95 and comes with a hefty paperback book explaining the basics of logic programming in Prolog.

"For a long time Clive didn't show much interest in Prolog, then he suddenly became very enthusiastic. Sinclair is now devoting quite a lot of effort in challenging the Japanese Fifth Generation project with its own work in AI — particularly now it has set up its Metalab research facility."

The Spectrum version of micro-Prolog has over 60 pre-defined command words, such as Less and as in Forth, these can be used to define other keywords, extending the language as required by a particular program. Micro-Prolog also features a built-in editor and error checking system.

Prolog will next be launched on the Acorn machine. The program is now finished and under test at Acorn. Acornsoft plans to release it for both the Electron and BBC machines in the late spring. At about the same time in Commodore 64 implementation should also appear, published by Commodore.

THE DAN DIAMOND TRILOGY

My name is Diamond,

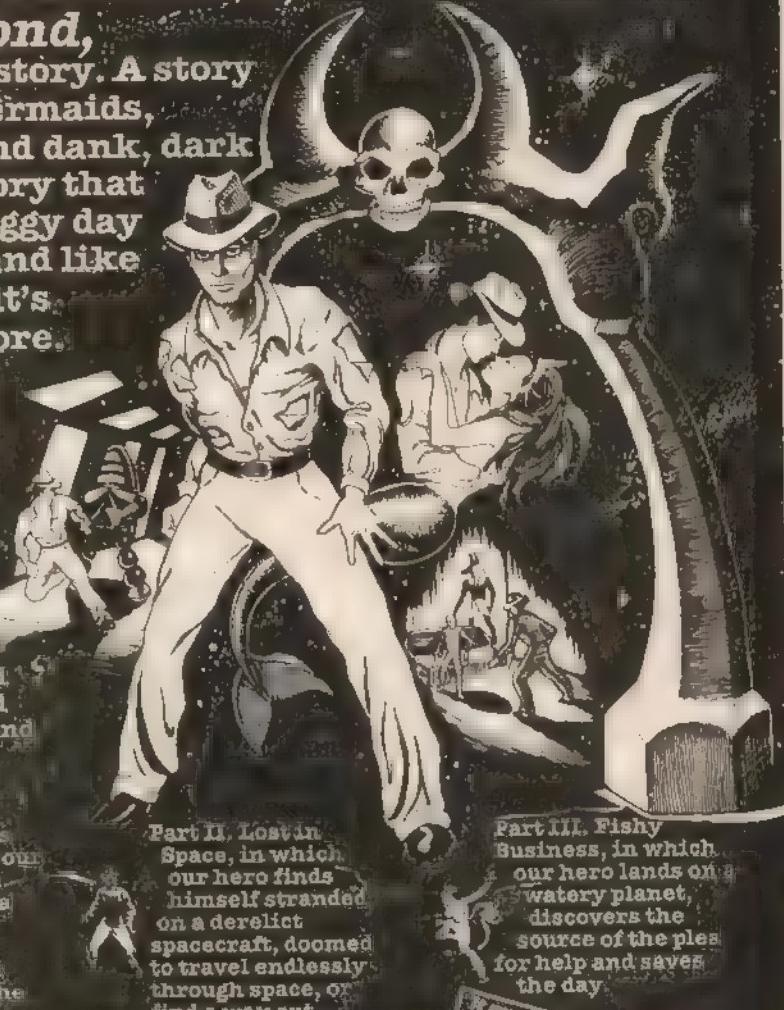
Dan Diamond,

and this is my story. A story of beautiful mermaids, bored robots and dank, dark dungeons. A story that started one muggy day in New York, and like the Big Apple, it's rotten to the core.

The Dan Diamond Trilogy is three separate adventure games. Each game may be played on its own, but clues may be found in the earlier adventures which may help later on. Each game comes with a lavishly illustrated 20-page case file, and hints (both helpful and misleading) which have been hidden in the illustrations.

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All three programs cost £9.95 each and are available for the DRAGON 32, BBC MODEL B and 48k ORIC-1 microcomputers. (note: Fishy Business for the BBC and ORIC will be available February 1984).



Part II. Lost in Space, in which our hero finds himself stranded on a derelict spacercraft, doomed to travel endlessly through space, or find a way out.

Part III. Fishy Business, in which our hero lands on a watery planet, discovers the source of the plea for help and saves the day.

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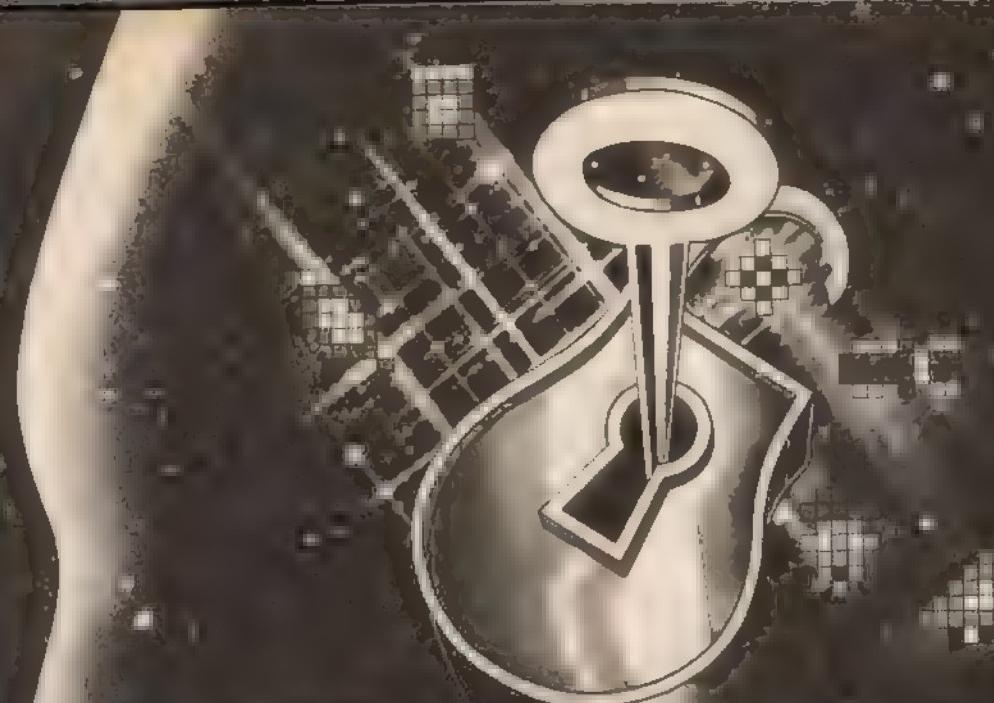
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Look out for Dan Diamond's next Adventure Series "Franklin in Wonderland". Available Spring 1984.



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A stix in time

Mike Grace tries his hand at another range of Commodore 64 software

When the 64 first appeared on the scene, most of the software seemed to be unable to utilise the superb graphic and sound capabilities of the machine. But, with the passage of time, better material has become available.

The latest batch of software contains quite a number of games which illustrate the improved use of graphics and sound, as well as the use of sprites, but I did find as I played them that I became increasingly annoyed at the "collision" facility of the sprites. What Commodore has done (in its wisdom) is make it easy for the programmer to set the sprites so that if two sprites touch, then whatever you want will occur — usually the game ends!

But enough of this whining — on with the review ...

The first game I tried was *Falcon Patrol* from Virgin Games (very competitively priced at £6.95). As most of you are aware, Virgin has recently moved from the music and record world into computer software, and their experience shows. The cassette sleeve has a professional and refreshing appearance (more in line with music cassettes) in that there is none of that tiny script, so beloved of software cassette sleeves.

Instead, we are given a nicely presented layout of instruction, picture and even a little spiel about the author (one Steve Lee — photograph and all). It appears Virgin are attempting to create personalities out of the programmers (nice to see them recognised officially) with potted life histories for all us punters to learn and dream about.

Falcon Patrol consists of a jet plane zooming along over a superbly-depicted countryside (trees, houses and roads) trying to shoot down the baddies before you yourself run out of fuel (named "gas" in the program — ugh!). As soon as I began to play this game I had a feeling of déjà vu, as though I'd played the game before. Sure enough, a glance through my past reviews for the Vic revealed (in *Popular Computing Weekly* 14-20 July) a game distributed by Quicksilva and called *Skyhawk* which is very similar to *Falcon Patrol*, apart from the enhanced graphics that the 64 will allow. However, *Falcon Patrol* costs £1 less than *Skyhawk* and is definitely superior in presentation.

The jet plane is able to bank, twist and crash in a graphically exciting way, and the enemy fighters also look much better than in the Vic version. The bombs and explosions are more realistic and the sprite ability of passing in front of each other also allows a 3D effect as the plane zooms low in front of the buildings and roads on the ground. This game is one of the best I've seen for the 64 so far.

Let's move on now to Quicksilva itself,

who have a release known as *Quintic Warrior*. Priced at £7.95, this game is outclassed quite considerably by *Falcon Patrol* in both value, graphics and concept. The cassette sleeve boasts a fearsome barbarian brandishing his ray gun whilst a slightly obscure mound cowers in front of him (I assume the mound to be a mutant from the gist of the explanation). The cover looks extremely professional, but this impression is lost immediately upon loading the game — not only is the text layout simple and unimaginative, but it's fairly obvious that whoever is responsible for "error-checking" missed out, as the word *for* is typed twice in the instructions. *

The instructions within the program are sparse in the extreme, consisting of several pages of text concerning our imaginary world — the *Quintic Warrior* is here to fight the baddies, while avoiding something known as the Zed ray and various other perils — but omitting any reference to playing the game. All this verbiage is really window dressing to hide the fact that once again we have a type of *Space Invaders* — the mutants who look like little Ys and gradually move up the screen, whilst a pair of lethal ray guns move up and down the sides of the screen blasting at you.

So the game is hardly original. But it is fun, and my two sons (aged ten and six) seem to get immense enjoyment from playing. Shouts of anger, joy and frustration accompany the zaps and bleeps (the usual noises in other words), and I found the atmosphere of the game quite impressive. There are 21 skill levels (as you move up so you find the mutants increase in number and both they and the Zed rays move faster) and, oddly enough, we found that increasing the skill level increased the score dramatically.

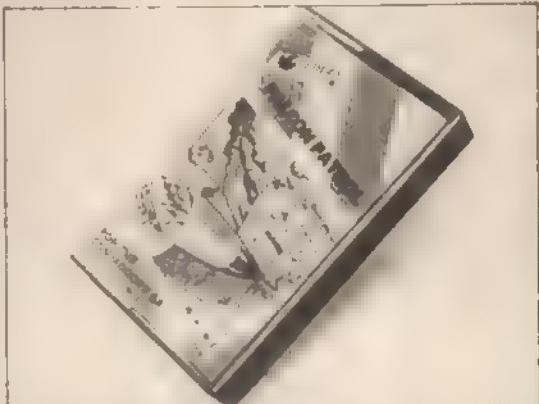
Alligate is presumably a trade name for software from Superior Systems in Sheffield, but the cassette I received called *Bat Attack* (costing £7.95) might have been better left out than reviewed. On the cassette we are promised fast action machine code, high-resolution graphics and imaginative sound effects — but I suppose you could use those words to describe virtually anything these days. *Bat Attack* looked amateurish as it loaded,

and it was. At the start of the game a spaceship appears (graphics were okay) from the bottom of the screen as though it were rising from the deep. Along the top, a horde of batlike baddies also appear and begin to peel off and attack.

Up to now, this could be one of any number of games, but unfortunately here the similarity ends, for *Bat Attack* resembles some of the worst games I reviewed for the Vic back in the early days. The problem is that you cannot move your ship with the joystick, only fire your own rays by pressing the fire button. If you want to move, you have to press keys Z or X.

I may have sounded harsh over *Bat Attack* (after all, some people don't have joysticks they tell me!) but it's when I compare it with a game like *Stix* from Supersoft that the poor quality shows. *Stix* (priced at £8.95 but worth it) is that rare event in a reviewer's life — a truly different game that calls for skill as well as speed and isn't really very complicated at all. I haven't seen a game quite so delightful for a long time.

Forget all the spiel on the cassette sleeve about hyperspace and field synthesiser — what you have is a random bundle of energy which looks more like a bundle of sticks (hence the title I assume) which is constantly changing shape and moving around inside the screen area. Your task is to draw lines around this bundle, trapping it in an ever-decreasing



space, using a little blob which traces vertical and horizontal lines. To make life just a little difficult, you have two other little blobs chasing you along the lines you have drawn and if one of the sticks should touch your line before it is completed — zap! You've lost a life.

More words cannot describe both the fun and the skill of this gem of a game. I found myself returning to it for enjoyment alone (an excellent sign for a slightly jaded reviewer) and I'd put addictability high. This game is my favourite of the bunch this time round.

Hungry Horace from Melbourne House (£8.95) is really Pacman with a do-it-yourself facility. You have four levels of

maze to manoeuvre with Horace (eating the fruit as you go) and, instead of ghosts, there are a few black "jailers" after you. If you eat the alarm bell, the jailers take fright (a neat effect here as their hair stands on end) and you can "eat" them instead. Otherwise it's *Pacman* to a T.

As well as the standard game, though, you can also draw your own maze and save it to cassette, once you've learned how to manipulate *Horace* through the mazes provided. This is an excellent addition to the game, although drawing mazes isn't as easy as it looks, and I'd advise you to get out your pen and paper first.

This is not the best type of *Pacman* around and in level three I found it nigh impossible to beat the jailer. No doubt it is possible, but one of the few problems with arcade games is the difficulty level — just how hard do you make it?

Talking of difficulty brings me nicely to *Crazy Caveman* from Merlin Software at £6.50. Quite a nice title heralds a well-drawn scene of mountains in the background and a sprite-like caveman who has to contend with a load of hazards that the environment is going to throw at him. It's a bit like *Krazy Kong* in concept, but without the gorilla.

First, a number of rocks come rolling along which you have to jump (by moving the joystick forward) and then, if you

survive that, along come another batch. Jumping these rocks is extremely hard as, thanks to the collision facility on the sprites, if you just touch one — bye bye caveman! Eventually, the rocks do stop and dinosaurs appear and come at you with remarkable ferocity. You need to bop these bighters on the head with your axe (realism was never a strong point in computer games — was it?) to survive into the next stage.

This game illustrates a point I've made before — why is it that if you lose all your lives you are forced to go right back to the beginning and start jumping rocks again? It would be nice to have three lives in each stage, but be able to short-circuit a stage (if you want to) so that at least the older players like myself can actually get to see the later stages.

Anyway, *Crazy Caveman* is not going to set the world on fire — but it's well drawn and fairly priced.

Commodore produces its own software, usually pretty competitively priced, and to finish I have a cassette and a cartridge to look at. The cassette is called *Maggotmania* and costs £5.99 — a good price for a good game. The action is pretty fast and the game, whilst being the usual zap-it-up type, has a touch of flair which seems to set it apart from much of the competition.

The idea isn't new, of course. This time you are a creature in a field full of deadly



flowers and a host of giant maggots, spiders and snails seem to want to get you. The cassette sleeve shows a man amongst these giant insects in the manner of *The Incredible Shrinking Man* (will I ever forget that spider...) but the actual game is more like the traditional arcade invaders type.

What is good is that the creatures do not come at you with such speed you never have a chance to know what's going on and you have several tasks to accomplish to try and survive. First, you need to destroy a few of the poisonous flowers to clear some room so you can dodge the maggots should they reach the bottom of the screen. Next, you must blast the maggots, spiders and snails with a certain degree of persistence if you wish to "up your score" and stay alive.

The graphics are pretty good (although you are depicted as a slightly insignificant blue meanie) and the spiders are excellent, but the thing I liked best was the satisfactory noise my blaster made as I fired away. Simple this game may be, but I found it good fun as well.

Finally, a Commodore cartridge called *Lazarian* priced at £8.95 (which seems excellent in view of those earlier cartridge costs in the Vic-20 days of yore). Oh, the joy of instant loading (don't forget to switch your **■** off first) and off we go.

Lazarian comes with a small booklet of instructions (Commodore has always been excellent in providing clear and concise instructions) and has three phases to play. You are piloting a spaceship (which looks more like a fugitive from some of the *Krazy Kong*'s I've seen than a spaceship, but never mind) and you have to rescue various sister ships to get to the next phase. If you manage this you end up by battling the deadly one-eyed space Leviathan (Commodore's phrase — not mine) who just happens to be called *Lazarian*.

The 64 is attracting better software now and some of it uses the sprites and other goodies as well. But, as always with any of these games, it's not really the graphics and the sound effects (although they do help with another version of a well-established arcade hit) it's the originality that counts — and for my money *Stix* from Supersoft wins hands down.

Firm	Program	Cost	Value(1-10)
Commodore 675 Ajax Avenue Slough Trading Estate Slough Berks	Maggotmania	£5.99	7
Alligata Superior Systems 178 West Street Sheffield S1 4ET	Lazarian	£9.95	7
Virgin Games 61-63 Portobello Road London W11	Bar Attack	£7.95	4
Melbourne House Glebe Cottage Glebe House Station Road Cheddington Leighton Buzzard Beds LU7 7NA	Falcon Patrol	£6.95	8
Quicksilva Palmerston Park House 13 Palmerston Road Southampton SO1 1LL	Hungry Horace	£5.95	6
Merlin Software Business & Technology Centre Bessemer Drive Stevenage Hertfordshire SG1 2DX	Quintic Warrior	£7.95	6
Supersoft Winchester House Canning Road Wealdstone Harrow Middlesex HA3 7SJ	Crazy Caveman	£6.50	6
	Stix	£8.95	10

PROGRAMMING

Round the circuit

Roy Masefield presents a program to help select the optimum operating point for transistors

Anyone who has had to design electronic circuits using transistors will have come up against the problem of selecting the best operating point for the transistor. The correct point is of particular importance when designing small-signal voltage amplifiers. While the use of integrated circuits has reduced the need for single transistors in a lot of applications, there are still many cases which call for the use of individual transistors.

Briefly, and to bring us all up to date on theory, let's see what conditions must be met to keep the transistor happy. Figure 1 shows an n-p-n transistor with the essential direct current (dc), potential differences (pd) and currents indicated. V_{CE} is the collector to emitter pd and has to be large enough to maintain the required collector current I_C . V_{CB} is the collector to base pd, which must always be such as to reverse bias the base-collector diode junction. In the case of an n-p-n transistor, this means that the base must be at a lower potential than the collector — for a p-n-p transistor, the base must be higher.

V_{BE} is the base to emitter pd and must be such as to forward bias the base-emitter diode junction, i.e. at a higher pd for n-p-n and lower for p-n-p. I_C , I_B and I_E are the collector, base and emitter currents respectively. Without going into transistor theory, it will suffice to say that small changes in base current can produce larger changes in collector current, and it is because of this that the transistor can

be used as an amplifier.

Now, suitable values of V_{CE} , I_C and I_B can be found from the transistor manufacturer's literature, either from the tabulated data or from the characteristic curves. Figure 2 shows a typical set of collector characteristics. On this, collector current is plotted against collector-emitter pd for several different values of base current. We might choose as our quiescent operating point (i.e., with no applied signal) some central point like Q. This establishes V_{CE} , I_C and I_B .

What we have to find out are the values of the components we shall need in the outside circuitry to give these operating conditions. Figure 3 shows a simple circuit for this.

R_1 and R_2 form a potential divider to provide the base bias. R_3 is the collector load across which the output signal voltage is developed. R_4 is a stabilising resistor to prevent thermal runaway, and it is usually heavily decoupled by a large electrolytic capacitor C so that at alternating current (ac) signal frequencies R_4 is virtually shorted out. This capacitor has no effect on the dc.

Quite simple formulae can now be used to find the values of the four resistors, if we make one or two assumptions:

- (1) The current in the potential divider, I_P , is usually taken to be at least 10 times the base current, I_B , so as to have a - swamping effect.
- (2) V_E is usually only a volt or so.

(3) The supply voltage, V_{EE} , is taken as $V_{CE} + V_E$.

(4) If V_{EE} cannot be found from the manufacturer's data, a good estimate is 0.6V for a silicon transistor, or 0.3V for germanium.

The formulae, all relying only on Ohm's Law, are:

$$R_1 = \frac{V_{EE} - (V_{CE} + V_E)}{I_P} \quad R_2 = \frac{V_{EE} + V_E}{I_P - I_B}$$

$$R_3 = \frac{V_{EE} - (V_{CE} + V_E)}{I_C} \quad R_4 = \frac{V_E}{I_C + I_B}$$

Having worked out these values, it is now possible to check if the amplifier will give the desired results — load lines can be drawn, input and output impedances estimated, amplification and power dissipation checked. If they don't come up to specifications, then it may be the operating point must be re-sited. It is here that the short accompanying computer program comes in useful, since it will do this donkey-work so that several different operating points can be tried out quickly.

On Run, you will be asked for V_{CE} , I_C , I_B and V_E . The printout will show R_1 , R_2 , R_3 and R_4 , together with the power rating suitable for each resistor. This is not, please note, the actual power dissipated.

The program is written for the Sinclair Spectrum, but as no gimmicks are used, it will translate for other machines very easily.

A final word of caution — don't expect your transistor to behave exactly according to the calculations; individual transistors may vary from the published characteristics by quite a large amount. All you can expect is a reasonable guide to the circuit values needed for correct bias. Some adjustment may be necessary once you get down to the actual construction. ■

Fig. 1

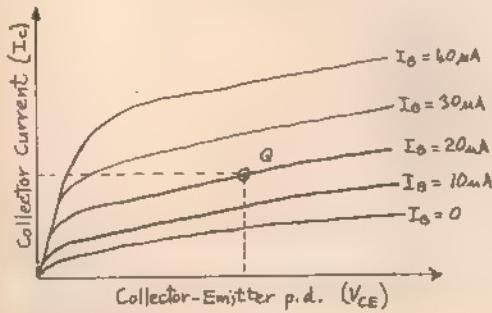
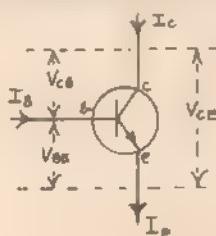


Fig. 2

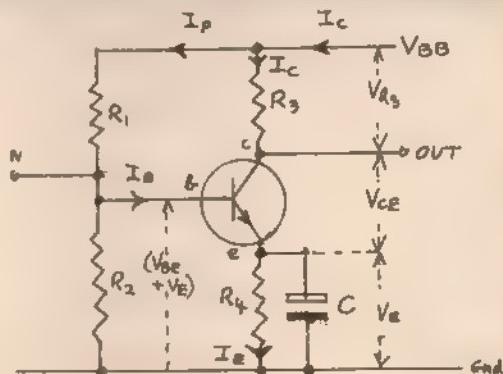


Fig. 3

5 REM TRANSISTOR OPERATING PO INT

```
5 REM © W.R.Masefield 1983
10 PRINT TAB 3;"TRANSISTOR OPE
RATING POINT":PRINT
20 PRINT "Select operating poi
nt on transistor Collector Char
acteristics and, if possible, fit
```

PROGRAMMING

nd Base- Emitter potential difference (Ube) from transistor data. If Ube is not given, take it to be 0.6V for a silicon small-signal transistor, and 0.3V for germanium. A typical value for Emitter-Ground P.d. (Ue) is 1V. Enter values as prompted below. NOTE UNITS!"

```

30 INPUT "Collector-Emitter P.
d?" (Volts)
40 CLS : PRINT TAB 3; "TRANSIST
OR OPERATING POINT": PRINT
50 PRINT "Collector-Emitter P.
d.;" vce/TAB 31;"U"
60 PRINT TAB 4;"Collector curr
ent;" i;TAB 30;"A"
70 PRINT TAB 9;"Base   /"
80 PRINT TAB 5;"Base-Emitter P.
d." vbe/TAB 31;"U"
90 PRINT TAB 3;"Emitter-Ground
P.d." vbb/TAB 31;"U"
100 LET ib=ib/1000: LET ip=10+i
b: LET vp=vbe+ve: LET vbb=vce+
ve: LET it=i+ip
110 LET r1=(vbb-vp)/ip: LET r1=
INT (r1/.001+.5)
120 LET r2=vp/(ip-i): LET r2=I
NT (r2/.001+.5)
130 LET r3=(vbb-vce-ve)/ic: LET
r3=INT (r3/.001+.5)
140 LET r4=ve/(ic+i): LET r4=I
NT (r4/.001+.5)
150 LET p=(vbb-vp)*ip/1000: GO
SUB 300: LET a$=p$

```

```

160 LET p=pvp*(ip-i): GO 5
170 LET p=(vbb-ve-ve)*ic/1000:
GO SUB 300: LET c$p=p$
180 LET p=ve*(ic+i)/1000: GO 5
190 PRINT : PRINT "Resistor Va
lue (ohms) Rating"
200 PRINT TAB 3;"R1";TAB 16-LEN
STR$ r1,r1,TAB 24:$
210 PRINT TAB 3;"R2";TAB 16-LEN
STR$ r2,r2,TAB 24:$
220 PRINT TAB 3;"R3";TAB 16-LEN
STR$ r3,r3,TAB 24:$
230 PRINT TAB 3;"R4";TAB 16-LEN
STR$ r4,r4,TAB 24:$
240 PRINT : PRINT "Power Supply
" vbb;" U @ " i;" W"
250 PRINT AT 21,0;"Press n for
new sub, s to stop"
260 IF INKEY$="N" THEN GO TO 260
270 IF INKEY$="D" THEN GO TO 10
280 STOP
300 REM Power Rating sub
310 IF p<=0.125 THEN LET p$="0.
125 W": RETURN
320 IF p<=0.25 THEN LET p$="0.2
5 W": RETURN
330 IF p<=0.25 THEN LET p$="0.2
5 W": RETURN
340 IF p<=0.5 THEN LET p$="0.5
W": RETURN
350 IF p<=2.5 THEN LET p$="2.5
W": RETURN
360 IF p>=5 THEN LET p$="5
W": RETURN
370 IF p>5 THEN LET p$=STR$ INT
(ip+.5)+" W": RETURN

```

PROGRAMMING AIDS AND LANGUAGES FROM .

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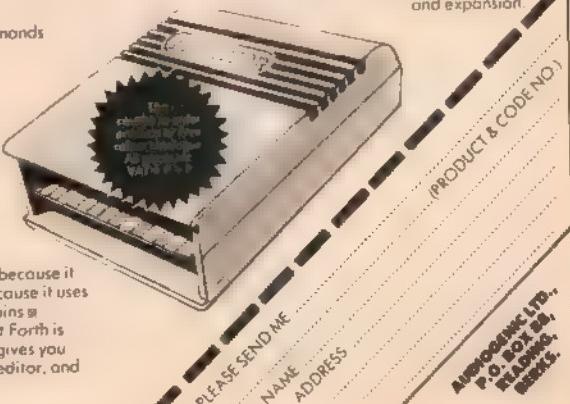
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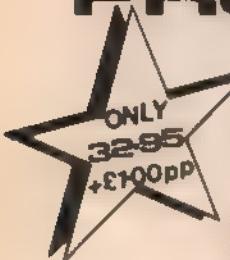
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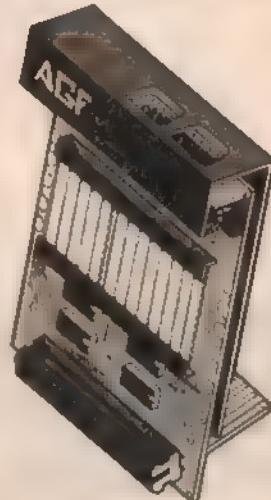
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A manipulative art

Trevor Toms unravels some of the mysteries of screen manipulation in the fourth of a six part series

This week's missive is in the gentle art of screen manipulation — how to print characters, draw lines, plot points, detect screen data — there's a lot to cover and little space, so off we go!

The Rom can be used quite easily with most of the normal requirements, and, since there are 1001 books available which give the idiosyncratic format of the Spectrum screen map, I have avoided repetition and skipped over it in these articles.

When printing normal text characters, the best approach to adopt is to use the *Rst 10h* facility in the Rom. For newcomers, *Rst 10h* is a single-byte Z80 instruction which is equivalent to *Call 10h*. In the Spectrum, this command has the effect of transferring the character held in register A to the currently selected output device.

In most cases, this would be the screen, but there is no reason why you cannot open a stream to any output device (the bottom two lines of display, or a Microdrive file, or RS232) and output data to a device of your choosing. For this reason, you must always indicate to the Rom which device is to be used by calling a routine at address *1601h*. Register A must contain the stream number to be selected. Note that this does not open a stream, merely directs subsequent output data to that stream, eg to direct output to the screen:

LD A, 2 device number 2 = screen
CALL SELDEV ROM routine at *1601h*

Other devices are:

0 & 1 Bottom two lines of the screen
Main display screen

3 ZX printer
4 — 15 Any stream opened by Basic OPEN +
So, in order to print ABC on the screen, you would code:

```
LD A,2
CALL SELDEV
LD A,41h
RST 10h
LD A,42h
RST 10h
LD A,43h
RST 10h
```

How about moving the print position? Easy. Any of the control codes listed in the Sinclair handbook (appendix A) can be sent to the screen and will act as shown in that list. Tokens will be expanded into their full form and unused characters (eg, codes 0-5) will be printed as a question mark. If you want to print at line 4, column 27, you would write:

```
LD A,22                 ;"AT" control character
RST 10h
LD A,4                 row number
RST 10h
LD A,27                 column number
RST 10h
```

This feature holds equally for attribute control characters as well, so you are able to alter the inverse, bright, flash, over and colour attributes at will.

However, writing long chains of *Ld A,nnnn/Rst 10h* in a program becomes extremely tiresome, and you begin to feel that there must be an easier method of coding your instructions to a brand new *Star Trek* game than this! Fret not, because a routine at address *203Ch* will print a complete string, provided you have set

register pair *De* to hold the address of the first character in the string and *BC* to hold the length.

Listing 1 contains three routines, one of which, *Print\$String*, shows the way you can easily include this Rom routine in your own programs with the aid of a small subroutine. In most cases, strings are never longer than 255 characters, so *Print\$String* assumes that your data string includes an initial "length count" character which is a single byte. It's not too difficult to alter this to allow for a 16-bit string length, but I would only do it if necessary, since it forces every string to waste one byte if not needed.

You can then print an entire string by writing:

```
LD HL,HEADING           string address
CALL PRINT$STRING        see listing 1
```

```
HEADING:
DEFB 12                 print 12 characters
DEFM 'Introduction'      the text to be printed
```

On to points and lines. Points are especially easy — a single Rom routine at address *22E5h* will plot the point whose co-ordinates are given in the *Bc* register pair — register *B* holds the Y-co-ordinate, while *C* holds the X-co-ordinate. Co-ordinates follow the standard convention of 0-255 in the x-direction, and 0-175 in the y-direction with (0,0) set at the bottom-left-hand corner of the screen.

As an exercise, you may like to write yourself a "point plotting" subroutine similar to the "string printing" subroutine given in listing 1. This makes it quite easy to include shape drawings in programs.

Lines are slightly more complicated, since all drawing is relative to the last point plotted. I have given a second routine in

continued on page 23

Listing 1

#Addr	Hex	Op	Operands				
F800	UDG1			F825 79	LD A,C		
F800	EQU	23675		F826 ED44	NEG		
F800	DRAW1			F828 4F	LD C,A		
F800	EQU	248AH		F829 1601	D,1		
F800	XPRINT1			F82B 45	LD B,L		
F800	EQU	203CH		F82C 7C	LD A,M		
F800	UDG&DEFINES			F82D 07	RLCA		
F800 7E	LD	A,(HL)		F82E+3000	JR NC,DRAW1		
F801 23	INC	HL		F830 16FF	LD D,-1		
F802 EB	EX	DE,HL		F832 78	LD A,B		
F803 E61F	AND	1FH		F833 ED44	NEG		
F805 3D	DEC	A		F835 47	LD B,A		
F806 DB	RET	C		F836	DRAW1		
F807 FE15	DP	ZI		F836 D9	EXX		
F809 D0	RET	NC		F837 E5	PUSH HL		
F80A B7	ADD	A,A		F838 D9	EXX		
F80B B7	ADD	A,A		F839 CD8A24	CALL DRAW		
F80C B7	ADD	A,A		F83C D9	EXX		
F80D 4F	LD	C,A		F83D E1	POP HL		
F80E 0600	LD	B,D		F83E D9	EXX		
F810 247B5C	LD	HL,(UDG)		F83F C9	RET		
F813 09	ADD	HL,BC		F840	PRINT\$STRING		
F814 EB	EX	DE,HL		F840 4E	LD C,(HL)		
F815 010B00	LD	BC,B		F841 0600	LD B,0		
F818 E0B0	LDIR			F843 23	INC HL		
F81A C9	RET			F844 EB	EX DE,HL		
F81B	DRAW\$LINE:			F845 CD3C20	CALL XPRINT		
F81B 4D	LD	C,L		F848 C9	RET		
F81C 7C	LD	A,H			Symbols:		
F81E EB	EX	DE,HL			UDG SC7B DRAW 248A		
F81E 1E01	LD	E,I			XPRINT 203C UDG&DE FB00		
F820 07	RLCA				DRAW1 FB18 DRAWB FB29		
F821+3000	JR	NC,DRAWB			DRAWMC FB36 PRINT\$ FB40		
F823 1EFF	LD	E,-1			No error(s)		

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listing 1 which makes the task slightly easier, inasmuch as it conforms to the register conventions I have stuck to throughout. The subroutine is entitled *Draw\$Line*, and it requires registers *Hl* to hold the *x*-increment and *De* to hold the *y*-increment. Both register pairs are assumed to be signed 16-bit values. The subroutine itself merely converts these values into a form suitable for a *Rom* routine at address *24BAh*.

The last routine this week, also given in listing 1, is a small subroutine that allows you to define a single graphic character from machine code. The routine *Udg\$Define* requires a parameter in registers *Hl* which point to a nine-byte string. The first character of this string should be

the Ascii code value of the key to be defined, while the remaining eight bytes hold the individual row values of the character.

Next week, we'll finish off the display features by taking a look at colour and how to alter the global settings of attributes (over, inverse, flash, etc), along with a couple of useful special effects.

In the meantime, listing 2 gives you a small program that uses some of the features covered this week. It draws a line border around the screen, defines *Udg* letter A, then moves the character around the screen within the box depending on pressing keys 5-8. Fairly unexciting, but it does demonstrate the ease of coding when using a set of pre-defined sub-

routines.

The routine *Draw\$Image* can ■ easily used, while *Set\$String* is an example of how moving graphics can be implemented with user graphics. The code that follows the call to *Await\$Key* in the main loop is intended to determine which key is pressed, then to update the current screen position depending on the appropriate key value. Table *Kcodes* holds the increment data for each key, and a check is made to ensure the resulting position is still within screen limits (ie, it never touches the border line). ■

By Trevor Toms, author of *The Spectrum Pocket Book*, published by Phipps Associates.

Listing 2

Addr	Hex	Op	Operands	Op	Operands
F000	XPLDT1			F06B	CD49FB
F000	EQU 22E5H			F06C	C9
F000	SELDEV1			RET	
F000	EQU 1601H			F06C	5E
F000	AWAIT\$KEY:			F06D	23
F000	EQU 15D4H			F06E	36
F000	BREAK@TST1			F06F	23
F000	EQU 1F54H			F070	D5
F000	DRAWLINE:			F071	5E
F000	EQU OFB1BH			F072	23
F000	UDG\$DEFINE1			F073	56
F000	EQU OFB00H			F074	23
F000	PRINT#STR1			F075	E3
F000	EQU OFB40H			F076	7A
F000	BEGIN:			F077	B7
F000 010000	LD BC,0			F078	B4
F003 CDE522	CALL XPLDT			F079	B5
F004=210000	LD HL, SQUARE			F07A=FB00	JR Z,DRAWX1
F009=C00000	CALL DRAW\$IMAGE			F07C	CD1FB
F00C=210000	LD HL,KEYA			F07D	81
F00F C000FB	CALL UDG\$DEFINIE			F080	10EA
F012 2100A0	LD HL,DA0SH			F082	DRAWX1
F015=220000	LD (SP09),HL			F082	E1
F018	LOOP1:			F083	C9
F018 3E90	LD A,144			F084	STRING1
F01A=C00000	CALL SET\$STRING			F084	04
F01B CD541F	CALL BREAK@TST			F085	16
F020 DD	RET NC			F086	DEFW 22
F021 3E01	LD A,1			F086	SPOS1
F023 CD0116	CALL SELDEV			F086	0000
F026 CDD415	CALL AWAIT\$KEY			F088	CHAR1
F029 D635	BUS 35H			F088	00
F029 38EB	JR C,LOOP1			F089	KEYA1
F029 FE04	CP 4			F089	41
F02F 30E7	JR NC,LOOP1			F08A	DEFB 65
F031 F5	PUSH AF			F08A	DEFB 24
F032 3E20	LD A,32			F08B	DEFB 60
F034=C00000	CALL SET\$STRING			F08C	DEFB 94
F037 F1	POP AF			F08E	DEFB 255
F038 5F	LD E,A			F08F	DEFB 94
F039 1600	LD D,0			F090	DEFB 60
F039+210000	LD HL,KCODES			F091	1B
F03E 19	ADD HL,DE			F092	SQUARE1
F03F 19	ADD HL,DE			F092	FF00
F040=110000	LD DE,SPOS			F094	0000
F043 1A	LD A,(DE)			F096	0000
F044 B6	ADD A,(HL)			F096	DEFW 255
F045 FE01	CP 1			F094	0000
F047 38C2	JR C,LOOP1			F096	0
F056 FE1F	CP 31			F096	0000
F058 30BE	JR NC,LOOP1			F096	DEFW 175
F05A 12	LD (DE),A			F094	01FF
F05B 18BB	JR LOOP1			F094	DEFW -255
F05D	SET\$STRING:			F09C	0000
F05D+320000	LD (CHAR),A			F094	DEFW 0
F060 3E02	LD A,2			F094	DEFW -175
F062 CD0116	CALL SELDEV			F094	DEFW 0
F065+210000	LD HL,STRING			F094	DEFW 0

Symbols:

XPLDT	22E5	SELDEV	1601
AWAIT\$KEY	15D4	BREAK@TST	1F54
DRAWLINE	FB1B	UDG\$DEFINIE	F800
PRINT#STR1	F840	BEGIN	F000
LOOP1	F018	SET\$STRING1	F05D
DRAWX1	F082	DRAWX1	F082
STRING1	F084	SPOS	F086
CHAR1	F088	KEYA	F089
SQUARE1	F092	KCODES	F086

No errors!



A message for Santa

Steven and Keith Brain show how to create computer Christmas cards

As the festive season approaches once again, micro users everywhere are rubbing their hands with glee and hoping that Santa will be bringing them the latest game, book or add-on module, or that he might even squeeze a disc drive or printer into his sack. The user must employ desperate tactics to make sure that his dreams are not forgotten. One of the most effective ways of doing this is to send suitably subtle Christmas cards to all of Santa's little helpers.

Now, even if you don't need to spend out money on birdseed for Buzby, sending Christmas cards is a very expensive business these days. Of course you could get paper and coloured pencils out and produce some home-made Christmas cards but that's not going to impress anyone. ■ it? Why not design a series of Christmas cards using the excellent hi-res graphics of the Dragon and save these as machine code files on your humble tape unit.

The main problem is that drawing a Christmas card from scratch in Basic is very time consuming. Graphic designer programs give you a drawing cursor and allow you to access ■ the hi-res commands directly from the keyboard, but producing a whole series of different designs ■ still a mammoth task. However, if you look at a lot of Christmas cards you will soon realise that certain objects (like Christmas trees, bells, holly, snow, etc) occur with monotonous regularity, but in different combinations and colours. We have therefore put together the following program, which produces pictures of a series of these standard Christmas objects and then allows you to place copies of these anywhere on the screen with a single key press. A text message can be added and the final designs are easily saved to tape or disc.

Notes are included in the program listing, but the general format is as follows — first of all, the system is initialised, eight graphics pages cleared and arrays set up to hold the screen areas we will *Get* and the cursor (*Cu*). The actual routines which form the objects reside from 10000-10160 and we *Get* these into arrays in lines 10170-10250. *VKS* (560) contains a list of valid keys and then the rest of the variables are set up. ■ no key is pressed, the cursor flashes (1130-1170). If a key which has been defined in *VKS* is pressed, then the appropriate action subroutine is called (1040).

The cursor keys update the screen position, provided that the limits are not exceeded (1050-1120). The functions of the control keys are listed in table 1. 'T, P, H, and B' respectively *Put/Pset* the array containing the tree, pudding, holly or bell at the current cursor position. The number

keys 1-4 give circular decorations in the four colours, and 5-8 similarly produce stars (snow). As these small objects are *Drawn* rather than being *Put/Pset*, they do not affect the background.

■ transfers you to text mode, where you can write your messages. Z produces a temporary copy of the current screen on the top four graphics pages, and / retrieves this copy. This rubber-banding feature enables you to test the result of a change in your design, without the danger of permanently ruining the whole picture. Shifted keys 1-4 change the size of the cursor movement. S saves a machine code dump of the graphics pages onto tape and L loads it back. Pressing shift and clear at the same time clears the screen if you have made a mess!

The hi-res text routine which is included simply *Draws* characters. These are defined in line numbers which correspond to the Ascii codes (certain characters have not been included, so you can define your own in these positions — to avoid *U* errors, fill any empty lines in this area with *Return*). Letters and numbers are defined, the cursor keys control your position, and the colour can be changed with shifted keys 1-4 (erase by using the background colour).

To change the angle of the letters, press *Enter* and then a number from 0-3. The scale used gives 16x12 characters which seems a reasonable size, but if you want to change this alter the value of S in line 1420.

If you save a series of cards on tape, a simple loader program will call them back in turn. There is no need to specify filenames, and, as each loads, it will replace the previous picture from the top down.

10 PMODE 3,1:SCREEN1,0:PCLS
20 CLOADM
40 GOTO 29

If you prefer each card to spring into place instantaneously, you can reserve eight pages, views the top four, and only *Pcopy* from the first four when each load is complete.

10 PGCLEAR:PMODE
5,1:SCREEN1,0:P
CLS
30 PCOPY 1T05:PCOPY
2T06:PCOPY 3
TO7:PCOPY 4T08

If your dreams really do come true and you find a disc drive under the Christmas tree (with a

blank disc of course) you can modify the program to demonstrate to your relatives the great increase in speed of loading. We have included direct access to the disc directory by pressing D (press C to continue), so that you can see what filenames you have already used. This routine works on both Delta and Dragondos disc systems:

```
550 VKS=“TPHB12345678”Z||+CHR$(  
34)+“LSL”+CHR$(92)+“D”  
1040 ON K GOTO 1160,1260,1220,12  
40,1260,1360,1320,1340,1360  
,1380,1400,1420,1440,1460,1540,1  
560,1560,1570,1580,1620,1660,168  
0  
1680 CLS:DIR  
1690 AS=INKEY$;IF AS<>“C”THEN 1690  
1700 SCREEN 1,9:GOTO 1690
```

The actual Load/Save modifications are different for the two systems as the syntax of the commands varies. The Delta version is very simple:

```
1680 LOADM NAS  
1640 SALEM NAS,1536,7679
```

With Dragondos you need to specify three parameters and it saves a ■ of typing later if you automatically add the suffix .Bin to your filenames:

```
1500 IF NAS=“#” THEN 1600 ELSE  
NAS=NAS+“.BIN”  
1600 LOAD NAS  
1640 SAVE NAS,1536,7679,1536
```

With disc systems you must specify filenames, but these can easily ■ read from *Data* statements. As the *Data* is Restored when *End* is found, the sequence repeats ad infinitum (is this a good way to test your drive?). This is the Delta version:

```
10 PMODE 3,1:SCREEN1,0:PCLS  
20 DATA . . . . .END  
30 RESTORE  
40 READ NAS  
50 IF NAS=“END” THEN 30  
60 LOADM NAS  
70 PCOPY 1T05:PCOPY 2T06:PCOPY 3  
TO7:PCOPY 4T08  
80 GOTO 40
```

For Dragondos add .Bin again:

```
60 NAS=NAS+“.BIN”:LOAD NAS
```



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Table 1

SUMMARY OF SINGLE KEY COMMANDS

DRAWING MODE

	cursor keys	move cursor in relevant direction
T	Xmas tree	
H	holly	
P	Xmas Pudding	
B	bell	
1	Green circle	
2	Yellow circle	
3	Blue circle	
4	Red circle	
5	Green star	
6	Yellow star	
7	Blue star	
8	Red star	
9	cursor size 1	
*	cursor size 2	
#	cursor size 3	

S	cursor size 4
L	save
D	load
clear+shift	directory (disc version only)
Z	clears screen
.	puts screen in temporary storage
+	retrieves screen from storage
t	enter text mode

TEXT MODE

alpha-numeric keys	Generates characters
,	move cursor in relevant direction
cursor keys	changes to Green text
:	changes to yellow text
"	changes to blue text
#	changes to red text
;	enter followed changes mode
0	by key B=3
R	return to graphics mode

JUMP TO SET UP

1R GOTO 500

Text mode key-check and cursor

```

20 CS=INKEY$: PUT(X,Y←(X+S,Y),CU
.NOT FOR N=1 TO 10 NEXT N:PUT(X,
Y)←(X+S,Y),CU:NOT IF CS="," THEN
20 ELSE IF CS="R" THEN RETURN
21 OR=ASC(C$1):X=X+(S1Z2)(C(R=8)-(R=9)):Y=Y+(S1Z2)(C(R=94-(R=10))
Y:IF Y>E THEN Y=E ELSE IF Y<
S THEN Y=S
22 IF X>E THEN X=E ELSE IF X<
S THEN X=S
23 DPAW"BM"+STR(X)+","+STR(Y)+"
IF R=13 THEN 24 ELSEIF A=31 AND
R=91 THEN GOSUB 25 X=X+(S1Z2)-GOT
0 20 ELSE 20
24 DIF INKEY$: SOUND 1,1:IF DOR="" THEN
24 ELSE IF VAL(DOR)>3 THEN 1
#=," GOTO 20:ELSE 20
25 DPAW"(+"STRV(L)+A"+D6+"S"+$TP$5):OK ASC(C$1-31)GOSUB32,33,
34,35,36,37,38,39,40,41,42,43,44
45,46,47,48,49,50,51,52,53,54,5
5,56,57,58,59,60,61,62,63,64,65,
66,67,68,69,70,71,72,73,74,75,76
77,78,79,80,81,82,83,84,85,86,8
7,88,89,90:RETURN

```

Space

```

32 DPAW" "2+"16PENPUPDPI6PD6BM
+9,+8":RETURN

```

Colour change

```

33 C1=1:RETURN
34 C1=2:RETURN
35 C1=3:RETURN
36 C1=4:RETURN

```

Text characters

(37-47 RETURN)

```

49 DPAW"PM+8,-1F1R2E1U4H1L2G1D4B
M+8,+1":RETURN
49 DPAW"1+1,+016G1BM+6,+5":RETU
RN
50 DRAW"BM+1,+AL4U1E1R2E1U2H1L2G
1BM+8,+5":RETUR
51 DRAW"BM+6,-1F1R2E1U1H1L2R2E1U
1H1L2G1BM+8,+5":RETUR
52 DRAW"BM+3,+0UGG3R4BM+4,+3":RE
TURN
53 DRAW"BM+8,-1F1R2E1U2H1L3U2R4B
M+4,+6":RETURN
54 DRAW"BM+8,-2E1R2F1D1G1L2H1U4E
1R2F1BM+4,+5":RETURN
55 DRAW"BM+2,+0U2E2U2L4BM+8,+6":
RETURN
56 DPAW"BM+1,+0R2E1U1H1L2H1U1E1R

```

```

2F1D1G1L2G1D1F1BM+7,+8":RETURN
57 DRAW"BM+8,-1F1R2E1U4H1L2G1D1F
1R3BM+4,+3":RETURN

```

(58-64 RETURN)

```

68 DRAW"USE1R2F1D5U3L4BM+8,+3":R
ETURN
69 DRAW"UGR3F1D1G1F1D1G1L3U3R3BM
+5,+3":RETURN
67 DRAW"BM+1,+0H1U4E1R2F1H1L2G1D
4F1P2E1BM+4,+1":RETURN
68 DPAW"UGR3F1D4G1L3BM+8,+8":RET
URN
69 DRAW"R4L4U3R4L4U3R4BM+4,+6":R
ETURN
70 DRAW"U3R4L4U3R4BM+4,+6":RETUR
N
71 DRAW"BM+1,+0R2E1U1L1P1D1G1L2H
1U4E1R2F1BM+4,+5":RETURN
72 DPAW"U6D3R4U3D6BM+4,+8":RETUR
N
73 DRAW"BM+1,+0R2L1U6L1P2BM+4,+6
":RETURN
74 DRAW"BM+8,-1F1R2E1U5BM+4,+6":
RETURN
75 DPAW"U6BM+8,+3R1E3G3F3BM+4,+0
":RETURN
76 DRAW"R4L4U6BM+8,+6":RETURN
77 DPAW"U6F2E2D6BM+4,+8":RETUR
N
79 DPAW"U6D1F4D1U6BM+4,+6":RETUR
N
79 DRAW"BM+1,+0R2E1U4H1L2G1D4F1B
M+7,+0":RETURN
80 DPAW"UGR3F1D1G1L3BM+8,+3":RET
URN
81 DRAW"BM+1,+0R2E1U4H1L2G1D4F1B
M+1,-2F2BM+4,+0":RETUR
82 DPAW"UGR3F1D1G1L3R1F3BM+4,+0":
RETURN
83 DRAW"BM+8,-1F1R2E1H4E1R2F1BM+
4,+5":RETURN
84 DRAW"BM+2,+0UGL2F4BM+4,+6":RE
TURN
85 DRAW"BM+8,-6D5F1R2E1U5BM+4,+6
":RETURN
86 DRAW"BM+8,-6D4F2E2U4BM+4,+6":
RETURN
87 DPAW"BM+8,-6D6E2F2U6BM+4,+6":
RETURN
88 DRAW"U1E4U1BM+8,+6U1H4U1BM+8,
+6":RETURN
89 DRAW"BM+2,+0U4H2F2E2BM+4,+6":
RETURN
90 DPAW"R4L4U1E4U1L4BM+8,+6":RET
URN

```

Set up routine

```

500 PCLEAR3 DIMT:110:
510 DIMP:130:
520 DIM H#40:
530 DIM E#30:
540 DIM DU#5:
550 GOSUB 10000

```

Continued on page 27

SCREENPLAY

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DRAGON



```

560 VK$="TPHB12345679#Z/1"+CHR$(  

34)+#"#LS"+CHR$(92)  

570 XS=1:XE=255:YS=1:YE=191:X=12  

9:Y=96:D$="0"  

580 IN=1

```

Draw mode key check and cursor

```

1000 IF PEEK(337)>255 THEN 1130
1010 A=PEEK(135)
1020 R$=CHR$(A)
1030 K=INSTR(1,VK$,R$)
1040 ON K GOTO 1180,1200,1220,12
40,1260,1280,1300,1320,1340,1360
,1380,1400,1420,1440,1490,1540,1
550,1560,1570,1580,1620,1660
1050 Y=Y+(INX(A=94)-(A=10)))
1060 Y=Y+(INX(A=55)-(A=91)))
1070 IF Y>YE THEN Y=YE
1080 IF Y<YS THEN Y=YS
1090 X=X+(INX(A=8)-(A=91)))
1100 X=X+(INX(A=21)-(A=93)))
1110 IF X>XE THEN X=XE
1120 IF X<XS THEN X=XS
1130 PUT(X-1,Y-1)-(X+1,Y+1),CU,N
CT
1140 FOR N=1 TO 10
1150 NEXT
1160 PUT(X-1,Y-1)-(X+1,Y+1),CU,N
OT
1170 GOTO 1000

```

Main tree

```

1180 PUT(X,Y)-(X+49,Y+194),T,PSE
T
1190 GOTO 1000

```

Mars Pudding

```

1200 PUT(X,Y)-(X+88,Y+68),P,PSET
1210 GOTO 1000

```

Holly

```

1220 PUT(X,Y)-(X+45,Y+38),H,PSET
1230 GOTO 1000

```

Bell

```

1240 PUT(X,Y)-(X+25,Y+45),B,PSET
1250 GOTO 1000

```

Round decorations

```

1260 CIRCLE(X,Y),5,1
1270 GOTO 1000
1280 CIRCLE(X,Y),5,2
1290 GOTO 1000
1300 CIRCLE(X,Y),5,3
1310 GOTO 1000
1320 CIRCLE(X,Y),5,4
1330 GOTO 1000

```

Stars/snow

```

1340 DRAN"C1516BM"+STPK(X+1),"+"S
TR$(Y+)"NUNENPNFNDNGNLNH"
1350 GOTO 1000
1360 DRAN"C2516BM"+STPK(X+1),"+"S
TR$(Y+)"NUNENPNFNDNGNLNH"
1370 GOTO 1000
1380 DRAN"C3516BM"+STPK(X+1),"+"S
TR$(Y+)"NUNENPNFNDNGNLNH"
1390 GOTO 1000
1400 DRAN"C4516BM"+STPK(X+1),"+"S
TR$(Y+)"NUNENPNFNDNGNLNH"
1410 GOTO 1000

```

Entering text mode

```

1420 CL$=1 S=8
1430 D$="0" GSUB 20 GOTO 1000

```

TEMPORARY SAVE

```

1440 PCOPY 1 TO 5
1450 PCOPY 2 TO 6
1460 PCOPY 3 TO 7
1470 PCOPY 4 TO 8
1480 GOTO 1000

```

Retrieve temporary copy

```

1490 PCOPY 5 TO 1
1500 PCOPY 6 TO 2
1510 PCOPY 7 TO 3
1520 PCOPY 8 TO 4
1530 GOTO 1000

```

Current size

```

1540 IN=1 GOTO 1000
1550 IN=4 GOTO 1000
1560 IN=16 GOTO 1000
1570 IN=32 GOTO 1000

```

Cassette load

```

1580 CLS PRINT"LOAD MODE":LINE 1
INPUT"ENTER FILENAME TO LOAD (ENT
ER ### TO LEAVE THIS MODE)":N$W
SCREEN1,0
1590 IF N$W="###" THEN 1000
1600 CLDNRW:N$W
1610 GOTO 1000

```

Cassette save

```

1620 CLS PRINT"SAVE MODE":LINE 1
INPUT"ENTER FILENAME TO SAVE (ENT
ER ### TO LEAVE THIS MODE)":N$W
1$ SCREEN1,0
1630 IF N$W="###" THEN 1000
1640 SAVERNW:1536,7679,1536
1650 GOTO 1000

```

Clear screen

```

1660 PCLS 3
1670 GOTO 1000

```

Print objects

```

10000 TL=10 ST=1 TR=75 TP=80 PO#
90 PP=95
10010 PNLLE 3,1 SCREEN1,0 PCLS3
10020 DRAN"BM5A,1" FORN=1 TO TI
STEP ST DRAN"S"+STR$(N)+DRAN"C10
9P16H05" NEXTN
10030 DRAN"BM5B,"+STR$(TP)+C1L2
P10P4U19L2C2D5"
10040 DRAN"EM5B,2C2D30" PAINT<50
,TP,1,1
10050 DRAN"EM5B,"+STR$(PO)+C2L4
D4P2P4E2U4L4" PAINT<50,PP>,2,2
10060 DRAN"EM14P,140C?54F5P5R5E5L
70" PAINT<145,142>,2,2 PAINT<145
,142>,4,3
10070 DRAN"EM15P,145" CIRCLE<175
,125>,35,2,1,43,.05 DRAN"BM139
,141,2970" PAINT<175,125>,2,2
10080 DRAN"BM172,90C198G21402120
21,04R4U2R2U2P2U4E4" PAINT<165,9
5,1,1 DRAN"BM172,90F2P4D2R2D2R2
D4L4U2L2U2L2U4H4" PAINT<179,95),
1,1 CIRCLE<170,95>,4,4 CIRCLE<17
4,97>,4,4 PAINT<174,97>,4,4
10090 HP=1B HS=8 B1=15 B2=17
11100 DRAN"BM173,"+STR$(HP)+C1S
"+STR$(HP)+C2L4D2L2D2P4U2R2
112P2U4E4" PAINT<165,B1>,1,1 DRAN
"BM172,"+STR$(HP)+C2P4D2R2D2P2D
4L4U2L2U212U4H4" PAINT<179,B1>,1
,1 CIRCLE<170,B1>,4,4 CIRCLE<174
,B2>,4,4 PAINT<174,B2>,4,4
11110 DRAN"BM5B,130S12C2D6G2R9H2
H6H2G2"
10120 PAINT<55,135>,2,2
10130 DRAN"D6P4P4"
10140 CIRCLE<56,128>,5,2
10150 CIRCLE<56,155>,5,2
10160 PAINT<56,155>,2,2

```

Store objects

```

10170 T1=3B T2=1 T3=70 T4=185
10180 GET(T1,T2)-(T3,T4),T,G
10190 P1=125 P2=98 P3=215 P4=150
10200 GET(P1,P2)-(P3,P4),P,G
10210 H1=150 H2=5 H3=195 H4=35
10220 GET(H1,H2)-(H3,H4),H,G
10230 B1=45 B2=115 B3=70 B4=160
GET(B1,B2)-(B3,B4),B,G
10240 GET(B1,B2)-(B3,B4),B,G
10250 PCLS? RETURN

```

Programming by angles

Czes Kosniowski concludes his demonstration of trigonometry in programming

Non right-angled triangles

The first two examples from the scale drawing section may be solved by using the Right-Angled Triangles program. The third example (usually) involves non right-angled triangles.

A triangle has three angles and three sides. If we know the values of any three of these (except three angles) then we can find the values of the other three. For example, we might know the length of two sides and one angle. We can then find the length of the third side and the value of the other two angles. To do this we use a formula.

Let's call the three angles in our triangle X, Y and Z; the three sides SX, SY and SZ where side SX is opposite angle X, etc. (see Figure 10).

Figure 10



The following formulae relate the various sides and angles.

The law of cosines:

$$\begin{aligned} SZ \cdot SZ &= SX \cdot SX + SY \cdot SY - 2 \cdot SX \cdot SY \cdot \cos(Z) \\ SY \cdot SY &= SX \cdot SX + SZ \cdot SZ - 2 \cdot SX \cdot SZ \cdot \cos(Y) \\ SX \cdot SX &= SY \cdot SY + SZ \cdot SZ - 2 \cdot SY \cdot SZ \cdot \cos(X) \end{aligned}$$

The law of sines:

$$\sin(X)/SX = \sin(Y)/SY = \sin(Z)/SZ$$

Notice that if Z is a right-angle (that is 90°) then $\cos(Z) = 0$ and so the first formula becomes:

$$SZ \cdot SZ = SX \cdot SX + SY \cdot SY$$

which is just Pythagoras' theorem.

Program 2 will find the remaining angles

Program 2

```
10 REM TRIANGLES
20 PRINT CHR$(147), " TRIANGLEBS" CHR$(17)
30 PRINT "THIS PROGRAM WILL FIND THE REMAINING"
40 PRINT "SIDES AND ANGLES OF A TRIANGLE"
50 PRINT "WHICH INFORMATION DO YOU HAVE?"
60 PRINT "1> SSS : ALL 3 SIDES" CHR$(17)
70 PRINT "2> SSA : 2 SIDES AND NON-INCLUSIVE ANGLE"
80 PRINT "3> SAB : 2 SIDES AND INCLUSIVE ANGLE" CHR$(17)
90 PRINT "4> SAA : 2 ANGLES AND NON-INCLUSIVE SIDE"
100 PRINT "5> ASA : 2 ANGLES AND INCLUSIVE ANGLE" CHR$(17)
```

and sides provided you know one of the following:

Side Side Side: You know all three sides and are looking for the measurements of the three angles.

Side Side Angle: You know two sides and an angle which is not between them (a non-inclusive angle) and you are looking for the other side and angles.

Side Angle Side: You know two sides and the angle between them (the inclusive angle) and you are looking for the other side and angles.

Side Angle Angle: You know two angles and a side which is not between them (a non-inclusive side) and you are looking for the other two sides and the third angle.

Angle Side Angle: You know two angles and the side between them (the inclusive side) and you are looking for the other two sides and the third angles.

Notice that in the second case (Side Side Angle) two different triangles are (usually) possible depending on whether the angle opposite side 3 is greater than or less than 90°. See Figure 11 which illustrates this point.

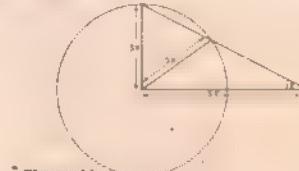


Figure 11

Refraction

Things often look distorted when viewed through glass or plastic. Water looks shallower than it actually is. The reason is refraction. When a ray of light travels from one medium (air) to another (glass, water...) it is bent or refracted. The angle that the ray hits the glass with is called the

angle of incidence; the angle after it has been refracted is called the angle of refraction (Figure 12).



Figure 12

For a given material there is a fixed relation between the angles of incidence and refraction. This is given by Snell's law which states that the ratio of the sine is constant for any material (in air). This ratio is called the refractive index.

$$\text{refractive index} = \frac{\sin(\text{angle of incidence})}{\sin(\text{angle of refraction})}$$

For glass the refractive index is about 1.5, for water it is 1.333, while for diamond it is 2.417.

Program 3 allows you to determine the angle of refraction, assuming that you know the angle of incidence and the refractive index.

Reflection

A piece of glass or the surface of water occasionally behaves like an ordinary mirror, reflecting everything. This occurs when the angle of incidence is too great and the ray of light is reflected. The smallest angle at which this occurs is called the critical angle of the medium. This is given by the following simple formula:

$$\sin(\text{critical angle}) = \frac{1}{\text{refractive index}}$$

Thus the critical angle can be determined from the refractive index by using the Asin function described earlier on.

This is an extract from Mathematics on the Commodore 64 by Czes Kosniowski, published by Sunshine Books.

```
VE SIDE" CHR$(17)
110 REM MAKE SELECTION
120 INPUT "TYPE IN NUMBER ", N
130 IF N<1 OR N>5 OR N<>INT(N) THEN PRINT
    "TRY 1, 2, 3, 4 OR 5." : GOTO 120
140 REM DEFINE ARCSINE FUNCTION. IN DEGREES TO 2 DECIMAL PLACES
150 DEF FNAS(X) = INT(10000*ATN(X/SQR(1-X*X)) + .5)/100
160 REM SPLIT OFF
170 PRINT N : GOSUB 310, 510, 710, 910, 101
180 PRINT CHR$(17), "ANOTHER QD? Y OR N"
190 GET B$: IF B$<>"Y" AND B$<>"N" THEN 190
200 IF B$="Y" THEN RUN
210 PRINT CHR$(147), "BYE FOR NOW." : END
220 REM ALL 3 SIDES
310 PRINT "*** ALL 3 SIDES KNOWN ***" CH
```

```

R$(17)
320 M=1:GOSUB 1110:SX=S
330 M=2:GOSUB 1110:SY=S
340 M=3:GOSUB 1110:SZ=S
350 A=(SY*SY+SZ*SZ-SX*SX)/(2*SY*SZ)
360 IF ABS(A)>1 THEN PRINT "NOT A TRIANGLE":RETURN
370 PRINT "ANGLE OPPOSITE SIDE 1 IS " 90-FNAB(A)
380 A=(SX*SX+SZ*SZ-SY*SY)/(2*SZ*SY)
390 PRINT CHR$(17) "ANGLE OPPOSITE SIDE 2 IS " 90-FNAB(A)
400 A=(SX*SX+SY*SY-SZ*SZ)/(2*SY*SY)
410 PRINT CHR$(17) "ANGLE OPPOSITE SIDE 3 IS " 90-FNAB(A)
420 RETURN
500 REM 2 SIDES AND A NON-INCLUSIVE ANGLE
510 PRINT "*** 2 SIDES AND A NON-INCLUSIVE ANGLE ***"
520 PRINT "TYPE IN THE SIDE FOR WHICH THE OPPOSITE ANGLE IS KNOWN" CHR$(17)
530 M=1:GOSUB 1110:SX=S:GOSUB 1210:AX=A
540 M=2:GOSUB 1110:SY=S
550 A=SIN(AX)*SY/SX:IF ABS(A)>1 OR A=0 THEN PRINT "NOT A TRIANGLE":RETURN
560 PRINT "IS ANGLE OPPOSITE SIDE 2 GREATER (>) OR LESS (<) THAN 90 DEGREES?"
570 INPUT "TYPE > OR <":A$
580 IF A$<>"<" AND A$<>">" THEN 346
590 AY=FNAB(A):IF A$=">" AND AY<90 THEN AY=90+AY
600 PRINT CHR$(17) "ANGLE OPPOSITE SIDE 2 IS" AY CHR$(17)
610 AZ=AX-AY/180
620 PRINT "LENGTH OF SIDE 3 IS" SX*SIN(AZ)/SIN(AX) CHR$(17)
630 PRINT "ANGLE OPPOSITE SIDE 3 IS" INT(18000*AZ+.5)/100
640 RETURN
700 REM 2 SIDES AND THE INCLUSIVE ANGLE
710 PRINT "*** 2 SIDES AND THE INCLUSIVE ANGLE ***"
720 M=1:GOSUB 1110:SX=S
730 M=2:GOSUB 1110:SY=S
740 M=3:GOSUB 1210:AZ=A
750 SZ=SQR(SX*SX+SY*SY-2*SX*SY*COS(AZ))
760 IF SZ=0 THEN PRINT "NOT A TRIANGLE":RETURN
770 PRINT "LENGTH OF SIDE 3 IS" SZ CHR$(17)

```

Program 3

```

10 REM REFRACTION PROGRAM
20 PRINT CHR$(147) "REFRACT"
30 PRINT "THIS PROGRAM CALCULATES THE ANGLE OF"
40 PRINT "REFRACTION WHEN A RAY OF LIGHT HITS"
50 PRINT "ANOTHER MEDIUM." CHR$(17)
100 REM INPUT DETAILS
110 PRINT "TYPE IN ANGLE OF INCIDENCE. I DEGREES."
120 INPUT "ANGLE: ":X
130 IF X<0 OR X>=90 THEN PRINT "ERROR - Nonsense":GOTO 120
140 PRINT CHR$(17) "WHAT IS THE REFRACTIVE INDEX OF THE MEDIUM?"

```

```

780 A=(SY*SY+SZ*SZ-SX*SX)/(2*SY*SZ)
790 PRINT "ANGLE OPPOSITE SIDE 1 IS " 90-FNAB(A)
800 A=(SX*SX+SZ*SZ-SY*SY)/(2*SZ*SY)
810 PRINT CHR$(17) "ANGLE OPPOSITE SIDE 2 IS " 90-FNAB(A)
820 RETURN
900 REM 2 ANGLES AND A NON-INCLUSIVE SIDE
910 PRINT "*** 2 ANGLES AND A NON-INCLUSIVE SIDE ***"
920 PRINT "TYPE IN THE ANGLE FOR WHICH THE OPPOSITE SIDE IS KNOWN FIRST" CHR$(17)
930 M=1:GOSUB 1210:AX=A:GOSUB 1110:SY=S
940 M=2:GOSUB 1210:AY=A
950 A=AX-AY:IF A<=0 THEN PRINT "NOT A TRIANGLE":RETURN
960 PRINT "LENGTH OF SIDE 2 IS" SX*SIN(AY)/SIN(AX) CHR$(17)
970 PRINT "ANGLE OPPOSITE SIDE 3 IS" INT(18000*A+.5)/100 CHR$(17)
980 PRINT "LENGTH OF SIDE 3 IS" SX*SIN(A)/SIN(AX)
990 RETURN
1000 REM 2 ANGLES AND AN INCLUSIVE SIDE
1010 PRINT "*** 2 ANGLES AND AN INCLUSIVE SIDE ***"
1020 M=1:GOSUB 1210:AX=A
1030 M=2:GOSUB 1210:AY=A
1040 M=3:GOSUB 1110:SZ=S
1050 A=AX-AY:IF A<=0 THEN PRINT "NOT A TRIANGLE":RETURN
1060 PRINT "ANGLE OPPOSITE SIDE 3 IS" INT(18000*A+.5)/100 CHR$(17)
1070 PRINT "LENGTH OF SIDE 1 IS" SZ*SIN(AX)/SIN(A) CHR$(17)
1080 PRINT "LENGTH OF SIDE 2 IS" SZ*SIN(AY)/SIN(A)
1090 RETURN
1100 REM GET A SIDE
1110 S=0:PRINT "TYPE LENGTH OF SIDE" M "I":INPUT S:PRINT CHR$(17)
1120 IF S<=0 THEN PRINT "NOT A TRIANGLE":GOTO 1110
1130 RETURN
1200 REM GET AN ANGLE
1210 A=0:PRINT "TYPE ANGLE OPPOSITE SIDE" M "I":INPUT A:PRINT CHR$(17)
1220 IF A<-0.001 OR A>180 THEN PRINT "NOT A TRIANGLE":GOTO 1210
1230 A=A/180:RETURN

```

```

145 INPUT "REFRACTIVE INDEX: ":IR
150 IF IR<0 THEN PRINT "FUNNY - TRY AGAIN":GOTO 145
160 REM CONVERT TO RADIAN
170 X=X/180
180 REM CALCULATE
190 Y=SIN(X)/IR:Y=Y/SQR(1-Y*Y)
200 PRINT CHR$(17) "ANGLE OF REFRACTION: " ATN(Y)+180 "DEGREES."
210 PRINT "PERCENTAGE OF ANGLE OF INCIDENCE: " INT(ATN(Y)*100/X)
220 PRINT CHR$(17) "THAT'S IT - AND HER GO Y OR N?"
230 GET G$:IF G$<>"Y" AND G$<>"N" THEN 250
240 IF G$="Y" THEN RUN
270 PRINT CHR$(17) "BYE FOR NOW."END

```

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Character examination

Mike Winson presents a short utility program that uses the features of the BBC's 1.2 operating system

This is a short utility which uses the features of the BBC's particular 1.2 operating system to permit viewing of the byte structure of the internal character set. This could have educational uses, or could provide a starting point for creating other, user-defined, characters; eg. different alphabet styles. This technique is well documented in the user guide.

When run, the program prompts for a character from the keyboard. The character typed will be displayed, in actual size and in large block graphics form, together with its ASCII code; the bytes making up the character (see p. 170 of the user guide) are tabulated in decimal and hex alongside the large

format character representation.

Program notes

- 50 Reserves a 9 byte block of memory for storage of the character code and the 8 bytes making up the character.
- 70 Defines character 255 as a block to be used in the printing of the large format character. Note the economical use of -1 to represent 244 in 2's complement notation.
- 80-130 Main program loop. Waits for a character from the keyboard, and calls PROCchar.
- 150 Sets X and Y registers to point to the first byte of the block of memory reserved in line 50.
- 160 Loads this first location with the character C, and calls the OSWORLD routine (AFFF1) with A = 10. This stores the bytes making up the character shape in the next 8 locations of the block.
- 170-260 Loop to display each byte in binary, decimal,

and hex. Note that the "binary" representation in this program is actually the large block graphics form of the character. For true "1's and 0's" binary representation, delete line 70, and replace line 220 by: 220 IF $\text{W} > 255$ THEN $\text{W} = \text{W} - 255$; VDU 49 ELSE VDU 48 Prints out the appropriate byte, in decimal and in hex. Note that the "print in hex" symbol has printed as the ASCII "overline" symbol on the listing. The correct character is found on the BBC micro above the exponentiation arrow.

Use with other operating systems

The program was originally written to demonstrate one use of the OSWORLD routine in the 1.2 MOS, but for those who have not yet upgraded from the version 0.1, then the procedure Procpatch can be used to simulate this call. This is written specifically as a patch to the main program, so is not the most efficient way of doing things, but if required then delete line 150, and change line 160 to 160 Procpatch adding lines 1000-1040 as in Listing 2. ■

Listing 1

```
>L.999
10 REM * A CHARACTER ANALYSER * *
20 REM by Mike Winson
30 REM April 1983
40 REM (for BBC model A or B)
50 DIM block%?
60 MODE1
70 VDU23,-1,-1,-1,-1,-1,-1,-1,-1,-1
80 REPEAT
90 PRINT"Character ?":C=GET
100 CLS:COLOUR2:PRINT"/CHR$C::COLOUR1
110 PRINT" = CHR$( "C") " DEC      HEX":COLOUR3
120 PROCchar(C)
130 UNTIL FALSE
140 DEFFPROCchar(C)
150 X% = bLock% MOD 256:Y% = bLock% DIV 256
160 ?bLock% = C:A% = 10:CALL&FFF1
170 FORbyte% = 1 TO 8
180 N = bLock%?byte%
190 FORbit = 1 TO 8
200 COLOUR2
210 N = N * 2
220 IF N > 255 THEN N = N - 255:VDU255 ELSE VDU27
230 NEXTbit
240 COLOUR3
250 PRINT,bLock%?byte%,?bLock%?byte%
260 NEXTbyte%
270 PRINT"/"Next "
280 ENDPROC
```

Listing 2

```
>L.1000.
1000 DEFFPROCpatch
1010 FORI = 0 TO 7
1020 bLock%? ( I + 1 ) = ?( $C000 + I + 8 * ( C - 32 ) )
1030 NEXTI
1040 ENDPROC
```

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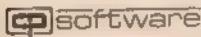
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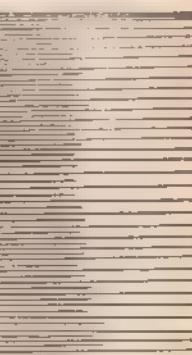
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Open Forum is for you to publish your programs and ideas. Take care that the listings you send in are all bug-free. Your documentation should start with a general description of the program and what it does and then give some detail of how the program is constructed. We will pay the *Program of the Week* double our new fee of £6 for each program published.

Bridge

on ZX81

This is a real test of dexterity. The program's aim is to prevent the man, "A", from falling into the chasm. There are six gaps in the bridges which can be filled independently by the player. To make things harder a gap cannot be bridged until the man is three spaces away.

Should the man reach a gap without a bridge he will fall into the chasm thus ending the game. Each time a gap is successfully bridged one point is scored. The game has a high-score facility allow-

ing a name comprising six characters to be entered.

The screen display is minimal comprising the high-score/score line and three bridges each containing two gaps. The man is *Poked* into the display file as this method is quicker than *Printing* onto the screen. As the man is the only moving piece the program is quite fast.

The instructions from line 1000 onwards give details of which key bridges which gap.

Variables

HS = High Score
HS = High-scorer's name.
S = Score.

```

10 REM BRIDGE (C) JUNE 1983
20 NEAL BLACKSHIRE
30 LET HS=5
40 LET HS=" " " " " "
50 SAUE BRIDGE
60 LET AS=" "
70 SLOW
80 SLOW 1000
90 LET S=0
100 CLS
110 LET D=PEEK 15396+266:PEEK 1
120 PRINT AT 7,0,AS,AT 14,0,A$.
130 AT 21,0,A$.
140 LET D=D+199+1231 AND AND 1..4
150 IF D=55 THEN GOTO 10
160 IF P-D>199 AND P-D<430 AN
E P-D>661 THEN GOTO 40
170 PRINT AT 0,0,"HSCORE=",HS,7
180 11;" BY ." HS,TAB 22;"SCORE=",
190 FOR I=P TO P+31
200 POKE I,23
210 LET I$=INKEY$
220 IF PEEK (I$)=6 THEN GOTO 500
230 IF I$="" AND I>P+6 THEN GO
240 300
250 POKE 1,0
260 NEXT I
270 LET S=S+2
280 GOTO 40
290 PRINT AT 7,0,AS,AT 14,0,AS,
300 AT 21,0,A$.
310 IF PEEK (I$)=6 THEN GOTO 600
320 PRINT AT 7,(7 AND (I$="A" O
E "L") +14 AND (I$="Z" OR I$=
"X" OR I$="V")," "
330 RETURN
340 GOSUB 600
350 IF HS>5 THEN GOTO 700
360 PRINT AT 3,0;"YOU HAVE ",I,
370 SEATEN" AND HS>5;"EQUALLED" AN

```

```

380 HS=5;" THE HIGH SCORE"
390 PRINT "ENTER YOUR NAME",,""
400 LONGER THAN 6 CHARACTERS"
410 INPUT IS
420 IF IS="" OR LEN IS>6 THEN G
O TO 630
430 LET HS=IS
440 LET HS=5
450 PRINT AT 0,15,HS
460 PRINT AT 11,0;"PRESS ""R""
TO START AGAIN"
470 PRINT AT 10,10;"GAME OVER",
AT 10,10;" "
480 IF INKEY$="R" THEN GOTO 70
490 GOTO 10
500 POKE I,0
510 LET I=133
520 POKE I,23
530 IF I-D>593 THEN RETURN
540 GOTO 600
550 POKE 15410,0
560 CLS
570 PRINT TAB 3;"BRIDGE BY NEAL
BLACKSHIRE"
580 PRINT "THE AIM OF THE GAME IS TO STOP THE MAN FROM FALLING DOWN THE CHASM YOU DO THIS BY FILLING THE GAPS WITH BRIDGES"
590 PRINT AT 7,0,AS,AT 14,0,AS,
AT 21,0,AS
600 PRINT AT 7,11,"A",TAB 20,"P
",AT 14,11,"A",TAB 20,"L",AT 21
11,"Z",TAB 20," ",AT 22,0,"BRID
E A GAP BY PRESSING THE KEY INDIC
ATED ABOVE"
610 PAUSE 500
620 PRINT AT 10,0;"PRESS ANY KEY WHEN YOU ARE READY"
630 IF INKEY$="R" THEN GOTO 1000
640 POKE 15410,2
650 RETURN

```

Bridge
by *Neal Blackshire*

Planet

on Vic20

This program shows you what you can do with a Super Expander on your Vic. When

run it will draw a picture of a planet in 3D perspective. Once you have run it a few times it should be quite easy to add your own features.

Line 50 is not necessary and can be omitted. All it does is produce the effect

```

10 REM 3D-PLANET BY GUY NORTON
20 graphic2:color0,0,1,0:fontc=360t0step
30 c=4
31 a=c*(1024/360):point1,a*ABS(COS(a/2))
32 ,c*a/360:NEXT
33 poke36865,70:poke36864,7
34 poke36879,B:poke36879,25:font=1t03:NE
35 XT:goto30

```

Planet
by *Guy Norton*

of a band of light moving over the planet. If the line is kept in by decreasing and increasing the size of the loop you will produce different bands going at different speeds. If *Ctrl* is pressed the band changes.

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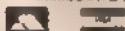


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OPEN FORUM

Tape Save

on Dragon 32

If you are working on a Basic program, you will want to copy it to tape fairly often. If you are sick of pulling plugs out and skipping the plastic leader tape (if any), you will appreciate the following routine.

Tacked on to the end of the Basic program, it does all the following:

- Makes sure the cassette channel is closed (or Csave will fail).
- Allows you to rewind the tape without pulling plugs out.
- Automatically skips the plastic leader tape (if any).
- Makes three copies with suffix numbers

(FRED 1 FRED 2 etc.).

Having added it to your program, just type Run 5000 and off it goes! If none of your tapes have leaders, you can miss lines 5070-5090, but personally I would leave them in for safety.

Incidentally, there are no jumps or Gotos, so line numbers can start anywhere.

```

5000 CLOSE # - 1
5010 PRINT "REWIND TAPE AND HIT 'ENTER':"
5020 MOTORON : ALLOW REWIND
5030 INPUT X
5040 MOTOROFF
5050 PRINT "PUT TO 'RECORD' (ENTER):"
5060 INPUT X
5070 MOTORON : SKIP LEADER
5080 FOR I = 1 TO 10000: NEXT I
5090 MOTOROFF
5100 FOR K = 1 TO 3 : THREE COPIES
5110 CSAVE "name" + STR$ (K) : PUT IN NAME
      OF PROG
5120 NEXT K
5130 PRINT "3 COPIES MADE"
5140 END

```

Tape Save
by John Letheren

Large Characters

on Spectrum

These routines will produce large characters on the ZX Spectrum — each character

being a 3 x 3 grid of graphics characters. The main program should be run initially to set up a number array with the codes of the graphics characters necessary to produce each letter. The routine which prints the characters should be merged into any program requiring the facility, together with

the line:

LOAD "LARGECHARS" DATA TO

Any word to print must not be more than 10 characters, can be either upper or lower case (all output is upper case) and must be loaded into the string Z\$ before calling the routine.

```

9800 REM *****
9801 REM * ROUTINE TO PREPARE *
9802 REM * A NUMBER ARRAY FOR *
9803 REM * LARGE CHARACTERS *
9804 REM *****
9805 REM
9810 DATA 128, 128, 128, 128, 128, 12
8, 128, 128, 128
9811 DATA 133, 136, 128, 133, 136, 12
8, 132, 136, 128
9812 DATA 128, 138, 128, 128, 128, 12
8, 128, 128
9813 DATA 141, 141, 136, 141, 141, 13
8, 133, 133, 128
9814 DATA 128, 141, 136, 128, 143, 13
8, 128, 141, 136
9815 DATA 133, 138, 136, 128, 137, 12
8, 129, 133, 136
9816 DATA 132, 135, 128, 132, 134, 13
8, 133, 140, 134
9817 DATA 128, 138, 128, 128, 128, 12
8, 128, 128
9818 DATA 132, 130, 128, 133, 128, 12
8, 129, 135, 128
9819 DATA 128, 122, 136, 128, 128, 13
8, 128, 132, 136
9820 DATA 129, 141, 137, 133, 143, 14
8, 132, 135, 134
9821 DATA 128, 138, 128, 143, 143, 13
8, 128, 138, 128
9822 DATA 128, 128, 128, 128, 128, 12
8, 132, 130, 128
9823 DATA 128, 128, 128, 133, 143, 13
8, 128, 128, 128
9824 DATA 128, 128, 128, 128, 128, 12
8, 130, 128, 128
9825 DATA 128, 128, 137, 128, 137, 12
8, 137, 128, 128
9826 DATA 132, 131, 136, 133, 128, 13
8, 129, 140, 130
9827 DATA 128, 141, 128, 128, 130, 12
8, 128, 141, 136
9828 DATA 132, 131, 128, 128, 128, 12
8, 132, 142, 128
9829 DATA 132, 131, 136, 128, 132, 12
8, 129, 140, 128
9830 DATA 128, 141, 128, 133, 141, 13
8, 128, 133, 128
9831 DATA 133, 131, 128, 129, 134, 12
8, 132, 137, 128
9832 DATA 128, 137, 128, 133, 140, 12
8, 133, 141, 128

```

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OPEN FORUM

```

9859 DATA 132,131,136,133,132,13
9860 DATA 133,131,136,133,140,13
9861 DATA 132,131,136,128,134,12
9862 DATA 131,139,129,128,128,12
9863 DATA 133,128,138,133,128,13
9864 DATA 138,128,136,133,133,12
9865 DATA 138,128,138,138,136,13
9866 DATA 133,129,138
9867 DATA 133,128,128,128,143,12
9868 DATA 133,128,138,129,140,13
9869 DATA 129,131,136,128,137,12
9870 DATA 133,140,136
9871 DATA 132,130,129,136,128,128,13
9872 DATA 128,141,136,129,133,12
9873 DATA 128,133,120,128,128,128,12
9874 DATA 132,131,136,133,140,12
9875 DIM T(85,9) : FOR U=1 TO 65
      FOR U=1 TO 9: READ T(U,U): NEXT
      U: NEXT U

```

```

9880 PRINT AT 10,6;"SAVE NUMERIC
ARRAY"
9885 SAVE "LARGECHARS" DATA T()
9886 PRINT AT 10,6;"VERIFY NUMER
IC ARRAY"
9887 VERIFY "LARGECHARS" DATA T()
)

9888 REM *****
9889 REM * ROUTINE TO PRINT
9890 REM * LARGE CHARACTERS
9891 REM * FROM INPUT Z$
9892 REM *****
9893 REM * IF LEN Z$>10 THEN RETURN
9894 REM *
9895 REM *
9896 REM *
9897 REM *
9898 REM *
9899 REM *
9900 REM *
9901 REM *
9902 REM *
9903 REM *
9904 REM *
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9990 REM *
9991 REM *
9992 REM *
9993 REM *
9994 REM *
9995 REM *
9996 REM *
9997 REM *
9998 REM *
9999 REM *

```

Large Characters
by Andrew Gregory

Multiply

on Dragon 32

This program is designed to teach long multiplication to children. Even though you might think that the program is long-

winded, you may find useful routines for positioning numbers on the screen in the right columns.

Program notes

First, it picks two random numbers, both between 10 and 99. It then displays the question as it would be set out on paper. It asks four multiplication sums, as you

would in a long multiplication problem, and fills in the answers in the display. Any figures to carry are added, and super-scripted.

The computer then asks for the number displayed on the top row, followed by the number on the bottom row. These are added together, and the computer checks whether the answer is correct, and replies accordingly. You are then asked to press a key, and another sum is chosen, and so on.

```

10 REM *****
20 RTN * MULTIPLY *
30 REM * BY MARK HARRISON *
40 REM *****
50 CLEAR 800
60 A=RND(90)+9:B=RND(90)+9
70 CLS
80 A$=STR$(A):B$=STR$(B)
90 LA=LEN(A$):LB=LEN(B$)
100 PRINT#16-LA,A
110 PRINT#48-LB,B;"X"
120 PRINT#75,"-----"
130 PRINT#139,"   ■ +"
140 PRINT#171,"-----"
150 A1=VAL(LEFT$(A$,2))
160 A2=VAL(RIGHT$(A$,1))
170 B1=VAL(LEFT$(B$,2))
180 B2=VAL(RIGHT$(B$,1))
190 PRINT#320,""
200 E2$="WHAT IS "+STR$(B2)+" X "+STR$(A
1)
210 E1$="WHAT IS "+STR$(B2)+" X "+STR$(A
2)
220 E3$="WHAT IS "+STR$(B1)+" X "+STR$(A
2)
230 E4$="WHAT IS "+STR$(B1)+" + "+STR$(A
1)
240 E1$=STRING$(32,32)+STRING$(32,8)+E1$
250 E2$=STRING$(32,32)+STRING$(32,8)+E2$
260 E4$=STRING$(32,32)+STRING$(32,8)+E4$
270 PRINT E1$:INPUT S$:S=LEN(S$):PRINT

```

```

8112-S,S$:PRINT#320,"";UL=VAL(S$):IF UL
L>9 THEN CA=18*(INT(UL/10)):CA=CA/10
280 PRINT#320,E2$:INPUT S$:UL=VAL(S$):
UL=UL+CA:S$=STR$(UL):S=LEN(S$):PRINT#11
-5,S$:PRINT#320:UL=VAL(S$)
290 PRINT#320,E3$:INPUT S$:CA=0:UL=VAL
(S$):UL=UL+CA:S$=STR$(UL):S=LEN(S$):PRIN
T#143-S,S$:PRINT#320:UL=VAL(S$):IF UL>9
THEN CA=10*(INT(UL/10))
300 PRINT#320,E4$:INPUT S$:CA=CA/10:UL
=VAL(S$):UL=UL+CA:S$=STR$(UL):S=LEN(S$):
PRINT#142-S,S$:PRINT#320
310 PRINT#320,"ENTER FIRST THE NUMBER ON
THE TOP ROW THEN THE NUMBER ON THE B
OTTOM ROW"
320 INPUT TR,BR
330 ST=TR+BR:PRINT#479,STRING$(255,8);
340 PRINT#320,"YOUR ANSWER TO THE SUM IS
":ST
350 IF ST=A$B THEN PRINT#352,"AND YOUR A
NSWER WAS CORRECT!" ELSE PRINT#352,"AND
YOU MADE A SLIGHT MISTAKE":PRINT"THE ANS
WER SHOULD HAVE BEEN":A*B
360 ST$=STR$(ST)
370 S=LEN(ST$)
380 PRINT#20B-S,ST$;
390 PRINT#416,"PRESS A KEY...
400 IF INKEY$="" THEN 400 ELSE RUN

```

Multiply
by Mark Harrison

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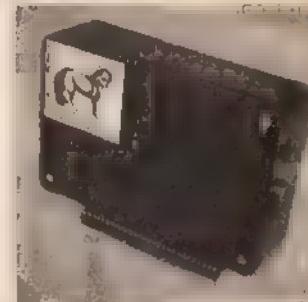


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OPEN FORUM

Christmas Carol

on Commodore 64

This program will play the Christmas carol 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' in one, two or three voices. You have the option to hear

the tune, descant or bass on their own or in any combination.

This allows you to hear a voice, for example, the bass, and enables you to play the tune, on a musical instrument of your own. You can either do this or sit back and listen to your Commodore 64 play its

music to you.

Program notes

20 Sets sustain/release for voice 1, 2 and 3
 30 Sets type of sound for the voices
 70 Pokes the notes into the SID chip
 80 Time loop for each note played

The words printed in graphics in lines 520, 580 and 600 are 'Tune', 'Descant' and 'Bass' respectively.

```

10 FORL=54272:T054296:POKE1,0:NEXT:POKE54296,13:GOSUB500:PRINTA$  

20 POKE54275,240:POKE54285,128:POKE54292,240  

30 POKE54275,9:POKE54274,10:POKE54282,11:POKE54281,10:POKE54289,3:POKE54288,10  

40 READA,B,C,D,E,F,G  

50 IFG=-1THEN640  

60 POKE54276,V1:POKE54283,V2:POKE54290,V3  

70 POKE54273,A:POKE54272,B:POKE54280,C:POKE54279,D:POKE54287,E:POKE54286,F  

80 FORL=0TO6:NEXT:GOT020  

90 DATA,,400  

100 DATA17,37,4,73,8,147,180,,22,227,17,37,5,185,180,,  

110 DATA22,227,19,63,6,188,180,,22,227,17,37,7,185,180,,  

120 DATA25,177,17,37,5,183,180,,28,214,14,107,5,185,70  

130 DATA25,177,12,216,,70,28,214,14,107,4,208,70,30,141,15,70,,70  

140 DATA34,75,17,37,4,73,170,,28,214,17,37,5,185,170,,  

150 DATA30,141,19,63,7,163,170,,28,214,14,107,7,163,70  

160 DATA22,227,11,114,7,163,70,25,177,21,154,8,147,170,,  

170 DATA25,177,15,70,8,147,170,,22,227,17,37,5,185,320  

180 DATA22,227,17,37,4,208,320,22,227,17,37,4,73,230,,  

190 DATA17,37,15,70,5,103,170,,22,227,17,37,5,185,170,,  

200 DATA22,227,17,37,5,103,170,,22,227,17,37,4,208,170,,  

210 DATA25,177,17,37,5,183,170,,28,214,17,37,5,185,70  

220 DATA25,177,12,216,,70,28,214,14,107,4,208,70,30,141,15,70,,70  

230 DATA34,75,34,63,4,208,170,,28,214,17,37,4,208,170,,  

240 DATA30,141,22,227,6,188,170,,28,214,14,107,7,53,70  

250 DATA22,227,11,114,7,163,70,25,177,21,154,8,147,170,,  

260 DATA25,177,15,70,8,147,170,,22,227,17,37,5,185,280  

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270 DATA22,227,,70,28,214,,70,34,75,21,154,7,53,400,,  

280 DATA38,126,19,63,7,53,70,34,75,17,37,8,147,70,30,141,15,70,8,147,70  

290 DATA28,214,14,107,8,147,70,25,177,12,216,8,147,70,22,227,11,114,5,185,70  

300 DATA25,177,12,216,5,185,70,28,214,14,107,5,185,70,30,141,15,70,8,147,70  

310 DATA34,75,17,37,8,147,170,,17,37,,8,147,170,,  

320 DATA22,227,11,114,5,185,170,,28,214,14,107,5,185,170,,  

330 DATA25,177,15,70,7,163,170,,22,227,11,114,7,163,170,,  

340 DATA17,37,8,147,4,73,300,17,37,8,147,7,163,270,,17,37,8,147,4,73,300  

350 DATA17,37,8,147,10,205,270,,22,227,11,114,5,185,170,,  

360 DATA22,227,11,114,5,103,170,,22,227,11,114,4,208,170,,  

370 DATA25,177,12,216,4,73,170,,28,214,14,107,3,218,70  

380 DATA25,177,12,216,3,155,70,28,214,14,107,3,218,70,30,141,15,70,4,73,70  

390 DATA34,75,17,37,4,208,170,,28,214,14,107,4,208,170,,  

400 DATA30,141,22,227,6,188,170,,28,214,22,227,5,185,70  

410 DATA22,227,19,63,4,208,70,25,177,21,154,5,103,70,25,177,21,154,5,185,0  

420 DATA,,25,177,21,154,6,108,70,25,177,21,154,4,73,70  

430 DATA22,227,11,114,5,185,70,22,227,11,114,8,147,70,22,227,11,114,7,53,70  

440 DATA22,227,11,114,8,147,70,22,227,11,114,5,185,1200  

450 DATA-1,-1,-1,-1,-1,-1  

500 POKE53280,4:POKE53281,2  

510 PRINTCHR$(14)!"DO YOU LIKE THE LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM?"  

515 PRINT"DO YOU LIKE THE LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM?"  

516 PRINT"DO YOU LIKE THE LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM?"  

517 PRINT"DO YOU LIKE THE LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM?"  

520 PRINT"DO YOU LIKE THE LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM?"  

530 GETA$:IF A$="Y"THEN V1=65:GOT0560  

540 IF A$="N"THEN V1=0:GOT0560  

550 GOT0530  

560 PRINTA$:PRINT"DO YOU LIKE THE LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM?"  

570 GETB$:IF B$="Y"THEN V2=65:GOT0600  

580 IF B$="N"THEN V2=0:GOT0600  

590 GOT0570  

600 PRINTB$:PRINT"DO YOU LIKE THE LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM?"  

610 GETC$:IF C$="Y"THEN V3=65:RETURN  

620 IF C$="N"THEN V3=0:RETURN  

630 GOT0610  

640 POKE54277,12:POKE54284,12:POKE54285,0:POKE54291,12:POKE54292,0  

650 FORL=0TO3000:NEXT:POKE54296,0

```

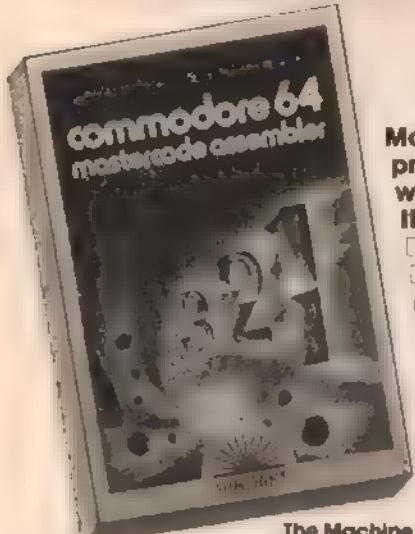
Christmas Carol
by P Fry



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for the Commodore 64

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Mastercode is a substantial and complex program of use to anyone interested in writing machine code on the Commodore 64. Its features include:

- Machinecode monitor
- File Editor
- Disassembler
- Assembler

Mastercode is a full two pass assembler. It accepts labels, variables and equations within assembly language programs. It is possible to store programs anywhere in memory, even in parts occupied by the Assembler. Programs can be saved to either tape or disc.

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- LOADING OF MACHINE CODE FILES FROM TAPE OR DISC ■ STEP BY STEP TRACING OF THE EXECUTION OF A MACHINE CODE PROGRAM, INCLUDING DISPLAY OF REGISTER CONTENTS.

The Disassembler will translate into assembly language the contents of any area of memory, whether the 64's ROM or user program. Output may be sent either to the screen or printer.

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OPEN FORUM

Ladders Run

on Vic20

This is a program for the unexpanded VPC20. The program starts by drawing

ladders and ledges. The object of the game is to reach the top exit before one of the falling bricks hits you. After reaching the top exit you are rewarded with 500 points and a new and harder screen of ladders and ledges.

Program notes

- 8 Screen set up.
- 45-60 Key press.
- 78-81 Pokes blocks on to screen.
- 510-530 Data fix screen.
- Controls T = UP, V = Down, F = Left, G = Right

PROGRAM OF THE WEEK

Ladders Run

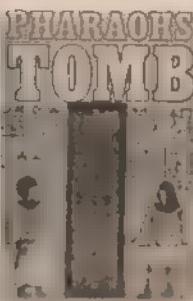
by Steven Fletcher

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12	Free Software	35	Block Copy	58	Inv Change
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14	Screen Effects	37	Erase	60	Flash Off
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16	Variables Search\$	39	Append	62	Bright Off
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OPEN FORUM

Santa's Grotto

on Spectrum

The object of this game is for you (the

sledge) to pinch all of Santa's presents before your time runs out.

You die if you run into the flashing boxes

at the bottom of the screen or your time runs out. You lose a life if you run into a wall or Santa.

Santa's Grotto by I. Grainger

Microradio

GW6JIN



Radio Teletype

This week finds me still trying to answer your letters. I am always pleased to receive enquiries from people who want to know more about how to become a radio amateur. Books and leaflets are available from the Radio Society of Great Britain, Alma House, Cranbourne Road, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 3JW.

As I mentioned last week, many of you write to me asking how and where to find the software and/or hardware to transmit and receive Radio Teletype (RITY) on your micro. This week I will give you the addresses to write to for your particular machine.

Commodore 64: A unit is available which will handle RTTY, ASCII, Morse and other modes from ICS Electronics Ltd, PO Box 2, Arundel, West Sussex BN8 0NX.

Dragon: A machine code program is available from M. Kerry, 22 Grosvenor Road, Seaford, Sussex.

ZX81 and Spectrum: An RTTY system is available from Sinclair Amateur Radios.

Users Group, 3 Red House Lane, Leiston, Suffolk IP16 4JZ.

BBC Computer: There are a few sources: SP Electronics, 48 Linby Road, Hucknall, Notts. Also Ramtop, The School, Wellingborough Northants NN8 2BX. More BBC software is available from GOC Software, 47 Cranberry Lane, Alsager, Stoke-on-Trent. GOC produce RTTY systems and various morse programs.

I have had a letter or two from people with Atari micros and I must admit that I do not know of a single source for an Atari RTTY system in the UK. I can only suggest that you write to Atari in the Uni-

ted States in order to get their advice. If anyone has RTTY on an Atari up and running, please let me know.

It seems to me that there are an awful lot of you out there looking for radio related software for your micro. There is not very much software about and since more and more radio enthusiasts are becoming micro-owners, a market is opening up in this area.

Ray Berry GW6JJN

This series of articles is designed for radio and microcomputer enthusiasts alike. If you have any queries that you want answered, hints and tips to share, or topics that you would like to see covered, write to: Ray Bay, Microradio, Popular Computing Weekly, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.

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Tony Bridge's Adventure Corner



Christmas quiz

The last week of 1983... and what a busy year it's been for everybody interested in home, sorry, popular computing. The Spectrum, Commodore 64 and Atari machines have, between them, dragged computer games off the block graphics Space Invaders shelf, and into high resolution arcade quality. In the same way, these machines, and others, have done a similar job with adventure programs, forcing the software houses into ever better products.

And what products we've been treated to in the last year! 1983 will go down in microadventure history as *The Year of The Hobbit* — and its chronicle, *The Hobbit Hall of Fame!* Now that versions have been released for computers other than the Spectrum, I imagine many of you will have a nice little package in your Christmas stocking and, although it'll keep you busy for some while, I expect to see some non-Spectrum names appearing in the HHOF.

Other 1983 programs I personally enjoyed were *Valhalla* and Level 9's ad-

ventures. I'm glad to be able to report that Level 9, whose programs are in the classic style, have some new adventures out soon.

Speaking of little packages, the last review of '83 is of some book/tape packages from Puffin/Penguin Books. The big book publishers have seen the light and decided that software can be sold just like books. They have taken one of their best-selling titles — "The Warlock of Firetop Mountain" — and combined it with a tape.

This book, by Steve Jackson and Ian Livingstone, in case you haven't seen it, or any of the several follow-ups, takes the form of a multiple-choice solo fantasy-adventure. Borrowing heavily from *Tunnels and Trolls* fantasy role-playing rules, the book takes the reader through a complex adventure. Starting from a dark cave entrance, and an east-west junction, the player/reader chooses which way to go, and then turns to the relevant page to find what his fate is. Coming upon a monster, the player may sometimes choose to run, or engage in combat, or take some other action.

The tape accompanying the book is of a Spectrum program written by Crystal Computing. Regular readers of Adventure Corner will remember their program, *Halls of the Things*, which I enthused over a few weeks ago. Not really adventure, I know, but a very stylish Arcventure, with more than touch of the magicals about it!

Warlock is essentially a remake of *Hott* and it has lost quite a bit in the process, I'm afraid. The differences are too numerous to go into here — suffice to say that *Hott* will remain my favourite. *Twofm*, however, retains Crystal Computing's customary panache, and only suffers in comparison with the earlier program — in its own right, it is a fast-moving, finger-numbing Arcventure. It's not much to do with the book,

although some of the creatures from the book make an appearance, as does the basic idea, that of collecting a number of keys in order to open the chest which contains the Warlock's treasure. As a package, *The Warlock of Firetop Mountain* is great value, and worth sticking in anybody's stocking.

Now, if the family have started to complain about you playing *The Hobbit* over your Christmas lunch, and the jokes in the crackers have got too boring, why not have a go at the Adventure Corner Christmas '83 Quiz? Just pick up a pencil, and put your answers on the back of a blank cheque...

1. You find an open can of baked beans. Do you:

- a) Eat them cold
- b) Draw your sword and run it through
- c) Look around for a gold sculpture

2. You hear a rustling behind the door. Do you:

- a) Bung up the keyhole with Blu Tack
- b) Draw your sword and charge
- c) Put the Golden Key in the lock

3. A giant dog with brandy round his neck blocks your path. Do you:

- a) Lie down and pretend to have frostbite
- b) Draw your sword and run him through
- c) Get out your club

4. The butler offers you a drink. Do you:

- a) Say "Thanksh"
- b) Draw your sword etc.
- c) Jump in the barrel

5. A little green man is sitting on a mirror. Do you:

- a) Give him a tip for the 2.30 at Aintree
- b) Draw
- c) Put on your gloves

6. You see a pair of Safety Sneakers. Do you:

- a) Turn up your nose
- b) Tear them to shreds
- c) Wear them

7. A little plant whimpers "Water... water...". Do you:

- a) Pick the flower and put it in your buttonhole
- b) Stomp on it merrily
- c) Water it and stand well back

Have a look at your answers — if you got mostly a's, then you should probably be out night-clubbing, instead of playing with computers; if you got mostly b's, then you are probably an older D&Der in search of a new home — keep trying! If you got mostly c's, then you are a clever clog!

Have a Happy (Adventuring) Christmas, and I hope your New Year will find you completing many more Adventures! ■

This series of articles is designed for novice and experienced Adventurers alike. Each week Tony Bridge will be looking at different Adventures and advising you on some of the problems and pitfalls you can expect to encounter. So, if you have an Adventure you want reviewed, or if you are stuck in an Adventure and cannot progress any further, write to: Tony Bridge, Adventure Corner, Popular Computing Weekly, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.

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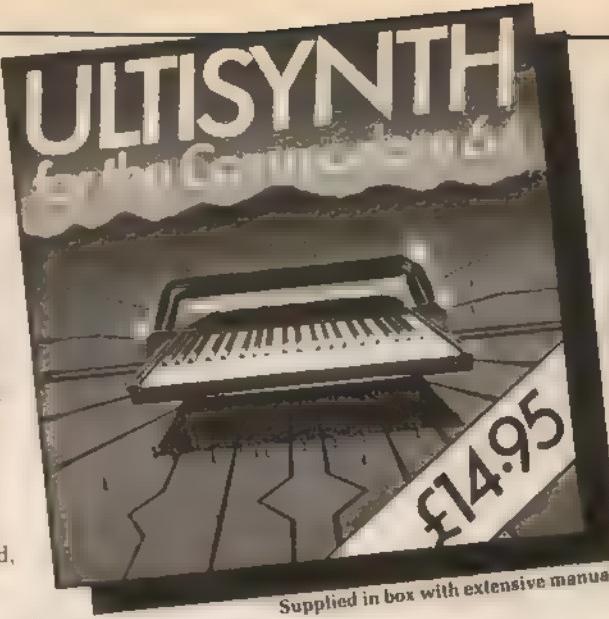
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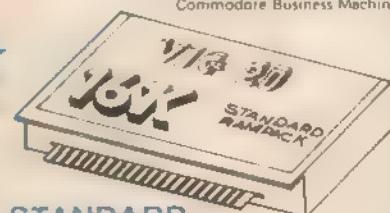
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ALL GREEK

Mr A. Wallis of Haweswater Place, Morecambe, Lancashire, writes:

Q My son has a Vic20 computer, and though it all seems to be Greek to me, he obviously understands it. A friend whose son is selling an Atari television computer, also has a joystick for sale. I have been told by my son that it is possible to use Atari joysticks on the Vic. Is this true and is it safe; will it damage the computer?

A No, your son is quite right. The Atari and Vic joysticks are in fact the same, apart from minor differences in styling. So it is quite possible to use one type of joystick on the other type of computer.

VIDEO SIGNAL

G Butterworth of Belveres Avenue, Blackpool, Lancashire, writes:

Q With reference to your article in PCW, 17-23 November, about connecting a Spectrum 2/3 issue up to a monitor. After reading this I wrote to Sinclair and they informed me that "they were unable to comment or advise on modifications" and "to open the case automatically invalidates the guarantee". I then managed to exchange my issue 2 Spectrum for an issue 3. On arriving home, to my disappointment, I found that issue 3s do not give a video signal. Perhaps I have read your article wrongly?

Please could you answer a couple of questions. What do you mean by a video signal and can you tell me how I can hook up my Sharp DV 1600 colour tv/monitor to my Spectrum?

My monitor has the usual type of phone sockets, like my video recorder. If you can help me, and possibly other readers as well, I would be very grateful.

A The Spectrum issue 3 does give a composite video output from the expansion port at the back. If you look at the chapter in the handbook on the port you will see the lines 0 volts, and Vid on the underside of the port, in the middle. This is where you take the composite video signal from, so all you need is an edge connector, and you should be able to use it on your 1600 tv/monitor.

Perhaps I did not make myself clear, but in all fairness to Sinclair, they cannot be expected to extend the guarantee, or offer advice on any computer that has been 'tinkered' with. The reason I included that question was that I have been asked it several times. I can tell people what to do, but going ahead must be at their own discretion.

TOKEN INPUT

Simon Dale of Swaledale, Richmond, North Yorkshire, writes:

Q I have a Vic20 with 16K expansion. Though I will probably be getting a Commodore 64 sometime, I am pleased with my Vic.

A friend has shown me how to use token input, to allow me to use longer lines. However, he did not really seem to know how they worked. Can you explain?

A It is due to the operating system, which employs 'text compression'. All the key words used by the Vic are stored as a number from 0 to 255. If you write a keyword such as Input it will be stored as five bytes of screen memory. Nevertheless, it will leave the Input buffer as a single byte with a specific value (132 in this case).

However many bytes of screen memory are taken up, it will always be stored as just a single byte. When, in the case of Input, you use I shift N, all you are doing is tricking the computer into thinking that you have entered the full command. Indeed, you have, but it has only taken two bytes.

When you List the program, the process is reversed.

MINI COMPUTER

John Masterman of Dalcross, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, writes:

Q I have been given a pair of mini-computer systems, made by Nixdorf. Each system comprises one console, including a dedicated tape deck. One hard disc drive (twin pack with five megabyte capacity), one fast printer and a CPU unit card. I also have another hard disc drive and about 40 packs.

I fully appreciate that the system is long out of date, as has been demonstrated by the manufacturer who has recently withdrawn user support. My experience with computers hitherto has been limited to micros. I have been advised by one person to scrap the lot, by another to 'play' with it, or to take the gold from the edge connectors.

I use a fully expanded Vic20. I have interfaced a printer to it, which was previously used on the system (a twin head dot matrix). I am now working on an interface for the two fast printers.

Can you advise me if the above system is going to be of use for anything other than just scrap? Can you tell me how to write to the system? The discs contained software, but no method for producing or writing one's own. I am loath to dispose of the equipment to the scrap man. The components alone might be very useful. Are there any museums for computers yet?

A I wish someone would give me a couple of 5 megabyte hard discs. Do they work? It is important to remember that just because the computer is out-of-date, it does not mean that the peripherals are out-of-date.

There are several questions to ask yourself. Does the system run CP/M? If it does, then

it could still be very useful to a small business. Do the peripherals all work? How much would replacement hard discs cost? This will probably give you an insight into the possible value of the hardware you are considering scrapping. From your letter I am assuming that you do not have the original instruction manuals. This is a major drawback as such things are not easy to replace.

All in all, if the system basically works, and you feel it offers capacity beyond your needs, then I would suggest that you offer it for sale. On the other hand, if you are handy with a soldering iron, then a Vic20 running with a 5mb hard disc would give your computer system a certain individuality that would be difficult to match. Before you ask, no I do not know of any driver cards to interface a Vic with a hard disc.

ARRAY MEMORY

Lance Walton of Seafield Road, Southbourne, Bournemouth, writes:

Q Please could you tell me how to find out how much memory an array takes up? Also, my father has a Silver Reed EX-44 Electric typewriter which I think has an RS232B interface. Can I use this as a printer for my Beeb computer? Also could you advise me on a book to buy about BBC machine code, as I am an absolute beginner and would like to learn.

A I can see no reason why the Silver Reed should not be used with a BBC — I have heard of it being used with a Spectrum.

However, it does not have an RS232 interface. I telephoned them and they told me that the RS232 was in fact an additional module that you would have to get through your dealer. The port on the typewriter is unique, and I have no details about it.

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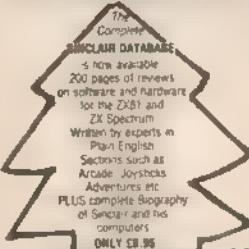
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WANTED, ZX81 add ons especially RS232 interface and cased keyboard with space bar. Cheap please. Tel: John 061-442 6832.

WANTED, Vic20 cassette software (second hand). Mr Allan Law, Apt Blk 19, Marine Terrace, 09-44 Singapore 1544 Singapore.

WANTED, Pet 80 32 in good condition Tel: 01-866 8550 evenings.

WANTED, Spectrum joystick and interface and software. Snooker, Hunter Killer, Bridge, Tom Nanas, Mahjong, etc. Good price paid or swap for software. Write: K. S. C. 39 Framfield Road, Uckfield, E. Sussex TN22 5AH.

WANTED, Microdeal teletext in exchange for three Salamander cassettes (Compendium 1, Dragon, Trek and Gold). Phone: (0453) 45515 (evenings only).

SWAP Scalextric track. Scalextric Stock Car set, bought for £63 sell £35, or swap for my Spectrum hardware. Who am I? And where do I live?

PIRATE COVE for Vic20 to swap for Voodoo Castle or The Count, also Panic, Wacky Wakers, Catch-a-Snatch, £3 each. Tel: Wormley (042879) 3226 (after 6 pm).

SWAP, Vic20 cassette unit, 16K + 8K + 3K super expander + Arlon motherboard + m-c monitor + joystick + £1,400 software for Atari 800 or Lynx with software or sell £275 Tel: Dudley 57360.

SWAP Spectrum programs, send SAE for details. Tel: A. Kidd, 20 Buckfast Close, Stoke Park, Ipswich, Suffolk IP2 9BG. Also programs for sale 3D Tank, Escape, Frenzy, Orbiter, Gulpman, etc. **SWAP** Atari 800, 16K, 410 recorder, two joysticks, 3 games, manuals, for Spectrum 48K plus £100 (negotiable), must be mint condition or sell complete. £250 Dave Yateley 876225 (day), 874725 (evening).

SWAP Adventureland cartridge for Tomb of Drewan cassette or sell for £8 Tel: South Shields 688194.

SWAP Ad Man speech synthesis and Renaissance cartridge for Vic20 Tel: Stevenage 0348-811634.

WANTED, Casio SX702P, also swap software for ZX Spectrum. Tel: 7895728.

SWAP G700 computer plus live games for faulty ZX Spectrum or good one or any computer W.H.Y. Tel: Abingdon 834613 (evenings weekends).

SPECTRUM SOFTWARE to swap, good selection of all types available, would like mainly adventures. Write for list to Alan Thorburn, Bingley, West Yorkshire, EX10 8BL.

DRAGON SOFTWARE to swap, lots of titles or £1 each Tel: 0272-863572 (Bristol), ring after 7.30 pm.

SWAP my Vic20 Pirate's Cove adventure for your Adventureland cartridge (private sale). Tel: Leigh Sinton 32694.

EXCHANGE Binatone Longranger 40 channel 4w. hand held CB for RD digital transceiver FDS keyboard or good custom case for Spectrum or sell £30. Chris 01-979 5047 (9-5 only) Teddington.

WANTED, Spectrum 48K or BBC B or BBC Electron Tel: (0279) 441694. Wanted quickly!

WANTED, 48K Spectrum + software and peripherals Tel: 0222 753622.

WANTED, Commodore 64 + cassette unit (preferably still under guarantee). Tel: 01-747 1242 (after 6 pm).

CASIO SYNTHESISEA MT85, swap for Seikosha GP100A printer. Tel: 0656 55939.

VIC20 software to swap. Swap Road Race cartridge for Gorf or Chipolli, also swap Llamasoft Treax for Anlog Xend II. Tel: George on Gardell 33568 (between 7 and 8.30 pm).

DRAGON software to swap, Planet Invasion, Frogger, Space War, Chess, Cave Fighter, exchange for Space Shuttle, Crazy Painter, Culchbert in the Jungle. Reply to Paul Fisher, 44 Paxton Road, Tapton, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S41.

DRAGON owners, swap Computer Voice, Android Attack, Black Sand, for any cartridge, or will swap any other software. Tel: 0325 283899.

SWAP Spectrum plus £50 of software plus £50 (cheque) for any BBC A or B. Tel: Leeds 862739, evenings.

SWAP Adventureland cartridge for Gorf cartridge. Tel: Swanley 60167, after 4 pm.

SWAP your Spectrum 48K (boxed/guaranteed) cassette, leads, interface, joystick, games, software, for my very rare Yamaha FG160 professional acoustic guitar, mint condition and hand-carrying case, worth £170. Tel: 01-958 3713.

WANTED: 2031 or A3040 or A4040 or a computerlink disk-drive for Pet computer. Tel: Portrush 842496.

WANTED: Spectrum 48K or CBM64 + manuals + disk drive if offered. Tel: 0884 6402, anytime.

SWAP Spectrum Scrabble for Valhalla. Tel: Rawdon 504684.

Micromail

LOW COST SOFTWARE

DRAGON 32

Program Name	Supplier	Price Inc VAT
Akhalaz	Microdeal	£ 0.00
Backgammon	Microdeal	£ 0.00
Cosmic Zap	Microdeal	£ 0.00
Cuthbert Goes Walkabout	Microdeal	£ 0.00
Defensa	Microdeal	£ 0.00
Dragon Invaders	Microdeal	£ 0.00
Fighter	Microdeal	£ 0.00
Frogger	Microdeal	£ 0.00
Golf	Microdeal	£ 0.00
Invaders Revenge	Microdeal	£ 0.00
Jerusalem Adventure 2	Microdeal	£ 0.00
Kaleidoscope Attack	Microdeal	£ 0.00
Monaco Adventure 1	Microdeal	£ 0.00
Monaco Grand Prix	Microdeal	£ 0.00
Planet Invasion	Microdeal	£ 0.00
Scorpion	Microdeal	£ 0.00
Shuttle	Microdeal	£ 0.00
Space War	Microdeal	£ 0.00
Talking Android Attack	Microdeal	£ 0.00
The King	Microdeal	£ 0.00
Williamsburg Adventure	Microdeal	£ 0.00
Ultimate Adventure 4	Microdeal	£ 0.00

COMMODORE 64

Program Name

Program Name	Supplier	Price Inc VAT
Sprite Graphics	Rabbit	£ 5.00
Escape MCP	Rabbit	£ 5.00
Pakacarta	Rabbit	£ 5.00
Comin' pods	Rabbit	£ 5.00
Cyclone	Rabbit	£ 5.00
Microcycle	Rabbit	£ 5.00
Anthonalizer	Rabbit	£ 5.00
Penni-exodus	Rabbit	£ 5.00
Polly Painter	Rabbit	£ 5.00
London Links	Rabbit	£ 5.00

VIC 20

Program Name

Program Name	Supplier	Model	Price Inc VAT
Amiodo	Imagine	Units	£ 5.00
Wacky Winters	Imagine	Units	£ 5.00
Catchin' Snatcha	Imagine	Units	£ 5.00
Freind	Imagine	Units	£ 5.00
Skyhawk	QuickSilver	32K	£ 7.95
Tornado	QuickSilver	Units	£ 9.95
Honeybee + Brainstorm	QuickSilver	Units	£ 7.95
Pixel Power	QuickSilver	16K	£ 7.95
Flated	Quicksilver	16K	£ 14.95
Subsquare Striker + Zor	Quicksilver	16K	£ 7.95
Starman + Encounter	Quicksilver	16K	£ 7.95
Phantom	Rabbit	Units	£ 5.00
Animator Splatter	Rabbit	Units	£ 5.00
The Catch	Rabbit	Units	£ 5.00
English Invaders	Rabbit	Units	£ 5.00
Pekakuda	Rabbit	Units	£ 5.00
Escape MCP	Rabbit	Units	£ 5.00
Griffers	Rabbit	8K	£ 5.00
Cyclons	Rabbit	8K	£ 5.00
Race Fun	Rabbit	Units	£ 5.00
Scramble	Rabbit	Units	£ 5.00
Mystred	Rabbit	8K	£ 5.00
Quicksilver	Rabbit	Units	£ 5.00
Atom Smasher	Rabbit	Units	£ 6.95
Martian Radar	Rabbit	Units	£ 6.95
Moon of Jupiter	Rabbit	3K	£ 7.95
Mutisound Synthesizer	Rabbit	Units	£ 6.95
Shark Attack	Rabbit	Units	£ 5.00
Space Attack	Rabbit	Units	£ 5.00
Power Blaster	Rabbit	Units	£ 5.00
Time Destroyers	Rabbit	3K	£ 6.95

SPECTRUM

Program Name

Program Name	Supplier	Model	Price Inc VAT
Arctech	Imagine	16K	£ 5.00
Schogards	Imagine	16K	£ 5.00
Ab Diddums	Imagine	16K	£ 5.00
Multi-Maul	Imagine	16K	£ 5.00
Jumping Jack	Imagine	16K	£ 5.00
Zip Zap	Imagine	48K	£ 5.00
Zzpoon	Imagine	48K	£ 5.00
Over the Spectrum 1	Melbourne	16K	£ 9.95
Over the Spectrum 2	Melbourne	16K	£ 9.95
Over the Spectrum 3	Melbourne	16K	£ 9.95
Peweltector	Melbourne	48K	£ 9.95
The Hobbit - Book	Melbourne	48K	£ 14.95
Prog Fim Spec Mc Lang	Melbourne	16K	£ 9.95
Terror Datal 40	Melbourne	48K	£ 9.95
Trader	QuickSilver	48K	£ 9.95
The Word Processor	QuickSilver	48K	£ 9.95
Mined Out	QuickSilver	48K	£ 9.95
Timetigate	QuickSilver	48K	£ 9.95
Easyspeak	QuickSilver	48K	£ 9.95
Astroblaster	QuickSilver	16K	£ 4.95
Frenzy	QuickSilver	16K	£ 4.95
Meteor Storm	QuickSilver	16K	£ 4.95
Space Invaders	QuickSilver	16K	£ 4.95
Aquaplane	QuickSilver	48K	£ 9.95
Radom	QuickSilver	48K	£ 9.95

All the above items at 15% below list price until

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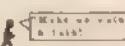
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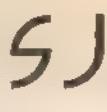
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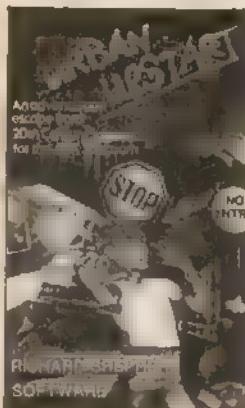
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NEW RELEASES

HOLIDAY TOWN



Scarthorpe wouldn't be anyone's idea of a holiday town — even the dogs carry knives. Unfortunately, you find yourself trapped in Scarthorpe and your attempts to find the exit from the town form the basis of the latest Richard Shepherd game, *Urban Upstart*.

It's an adventure in which every location is illustrated with graphics. The screen is split in two, with the graphics displayed in the top section.

The game understands quite a large vocabulary of words so that phrases can be connected to form a single sentence as in "Kill Fan and Take Trap".

I didn't have time to venture very far into the adventure, but it certainly seems to contain all the enigmatic clues you could want. I'm afraid there is not much I can offer by way of helpful advice, except to point out that lager can be very bad for you.

Program *Urban Upstart*
Price £6.50
Micro Spectrum 48K
Supplier Richard Shepherd Software, Elm House, 23-25 Elmshott Lane, Cippenham, Slough, Berks

A FORTUNE

If you have a Dragon 32 and are really committed to the idea of using it for education, then a new series of programs could be just what you need.

Maths O level Revision part one uses four programs on two

cassettes to teach things like area and volume, aspects of calculus, different sorts of interest, acceleration and how to construct various geometrical figures.

By getting the complete maths series the entire O level syllabus will be covered — you will also have spent an absolute fortune; each part costs £19.95. Not, perhaps, that it's unreasonable for four programs, but a wacking price for software nevertheless.

Program *Maths O level revision part one*
Price £19.95
Micro Dragon 32
Supplier Ampalsoft, PO Box 19, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 0HE

SPEECH UNIT



A program to teach your children how to recognise letters and how to match upper and lower case. Although hardly the first educational program of this type, it is the first I've seen to make use of the BBC's famed speech unit.

This involves the computer actually speaking the letter the child is required to recognise. Correct entries are rewarded by the letter being eaten by a fish and a happy face appearing on screen. Mistakes result in the fish being eaten by crocodiles.

There are various variations on the basic theme, as well as an "identification of skills achieved", which to you and I means a score.

Program *Happy Letters*
Price £8.97

Micro BBC
Supplier Bourne Educational Software, Bedford Lane, Headbourne Worthy, Winchester, Hants SO27 7SQ

GRAPHIC HAND

I've always thought it a bit silly using a computer to play board games on — unless the computer can be one of the players. Nevertheless, programs that do no more than replace board, banker, dice and counters often do quite well.

This time it's *Ludo* that gets the microchip treatment in a new program for the Vic20 and Commodore 64. This one does have some nice touches, like a graphic hand that shakes the dice in their tumbler, but it does not take the part of one of the players. So it's simply a matter of throwing dice and moving counters with other people — *Ludo* is not a complex game.

The Commodore 64 version also has an option to display the rules of the game at any time — well, it might stop a few arguments anyway.

Program *Ludo*
Price £5
Micro Vic20/CBM64
Supplier CP White Services, 52 Northfield Avenue, West Ealing, London W13 9SY

GIANT MAZE

Since *Android 1* very little has been heard of Vortex Software. Perhaps they have been saving themselves for *Android Two* which is definitely on my list of 10 best games for 1983.

For those who did not see the original, you control an android — a killing machine which you must guide through a maze to thwart the nasty millitoids.

The game is beautifully depicted in 3D, your vantage point being above and to the right to the giant maze. Apart from finding the millitoids, your android must also avoid various mines and other hazards in the form of bouncing alien missiles.

There are three zones of action, each extending over several screens. Like all the

best games, at first your task seems completely impossible, but after a few plays you start to have some success — just enough to keep you playing until the wee hours. Superb.

Program *Android Two*
Price £5.95
Micro Spectrum 48K
Supplier Vortex Software, 280 Brooklands Road, Manchester M23 7HD

SUPersonic

Scram 20 is an arcade game for the Vic20. It is basically a version of *Defender* and has, amazingly enough, been fitted into the unexpanded machine.

The game involves piloting a supersonic ship past various hazards and through narrowing tunnels to destroy an enemy base. This version has six screens of hazards, the last of which contains the enemy base which you are attempting to destroy.

Program *Scram 20*
Price £5.95
Micro Vic20
Supplier Attic Computing, Main St, Bransdeburton, Driffield, Yorks YO25 8RL

MARAUDERS



Two Gun Turtle is another in Lothlorien's Actionmaster series, which represents the company's move into arcade style games.

Your role is that of a turtle defending his prize strawberries from attack by marauding bugs.

NEW RELEASES

As you might expect, you blast away at the bugs to score points. However, it isn't quite as primitive as that — some of the bugs are quite harmless and will do neither you nor your strawberries any harm, unless you fire at them first. This touch forces you to be responsible with your trigger finger.

The game is set in winter, so from time to time snow can be expected to fall — this will mean increased danger and the chance for bonus points.

Program Two Gun Turtle
Price £6.95
Micro Oric 1
Supplier M C Lothlorien
 56A Park Lane
 Poynton
 Stockport
 Cheshire SK12 1AE

KILLER ROBOTS

Floyd's Bank is a multi screen maze game for the Lynx computer. Each screen consists of part of the defences protecting gold and valuables stored in a bank vault.

The first section is a floor of plasma mines where the slightest vibration will set them off. Other sections involve constantly changing mazes and caverns patrolled by killer robots.

On each screen there is a time limit for completion of that section — take too long and deadly nerve gas will be released into the atmosphere.

Program Floyd's Bank
Price £9.99
Micro Lynx
Supplier Romik Software
 272 Argyll Avenue
 Slough
 Berks

TABLE GAME



Kick Off is a football simulation for the Commodore 64 — quite a brave release this since it's up against Commodore's mighty International Soccer cartridge.

This one is a bit different though, being based not on the rugged game for 11 players but on its humble counterpart — table football — the version where you spin bars of little men to try and get the ball in the back of the net.

The game features specially composed music and is graphically interesting. Although you can play against the computer, the two player version is particularly recommended. There is some specially composed, jaunty, football music to go with it and it's great fun.

Program Kick Off
Price £6.99
Micro Commodore 64
Supplier Bubble Bus
 The Computer Room
 87 High Street
 Tonbridge
 Kent TN1 1LS

SNOWY WASTES

Bengo is an arcade/strategy game for the unexpanded Vic set in the wintry wastes of, well, somewhere very cold anyway.

Bengo, an innocent eskimo, is being chased around some blocks of ice by a yeti. *Bengo*, naturally enough, wants to avoid being on the yeti's menu.

Bengo's only defences are to hide behind the blocks of ice and, at the right moment hurl them across the snowy wastes squashing, the snow yeti. If you defeat one snow yeti, you can rest assured that his friends will come to find him and so multiply your problems.

Program Bengo
Price £6.00
Micro Vic 20
Supplier Mr Micro
 PO Box 24
 Swinton
 Manchester M27 3AJ

3 SECTIONS

Beyond Basic is what looks like a useful utility from Incognito Software marketed by Sinclair.

It is aimed at those people who are just beginning to investigate the subject of machine code and is a kind of mini-assembler, where all the commands are illustrated on screen in terms of what is

happening in the registers.

The program is divided into three sections, the registers, assembler commands, and your own programs. The first of these explains the general workings of a computer and the simple ideas behind Z80 codes. The second section goes on to explain the main commands in the Z80 assembler instruction set. Finally, using these concepts, you can run your own program watching the changing display of storage and register values.

Program Beyond Basic
Price £9.95
Micro Spectrum 48K
Supplier Sinclair Research
 23 Motcomb Street
 London SW1X 8LB

TARMAC TIM



Double Trouble is a version of *Amidar* with some nice touches, for the Spectrum 48K.

Tarmac Tim (that's you) has to paint the yellow lines of Sinclair Road (he's employed by Spectrumville District Council). The problem is that Tarmac has to deal with drivers who are positively Italian in their driving style and who are out to get him.

Tarmac also has to protect various pedestrians who are wandering in the middle of the road.

If a car gets through, your hero will spill his paint. If he survives his shift, he will be awarded a bonus according to the number of pedestrians he has managed to save.

Program Double Trouble
Price £5.90
Micro Spectrum 48K

Supplier Starlite Software
 1 Mercury Close
 Lordshill
 Southampton SO1 8BH

FAST FOOD



Mr Wimpy is a computer game featuring jingles and characters from the series of advertisements by the well known burger company.

The game proves to be a version of the arcade winner *Burger Time*, which is possibly my favourite game ever.

The game involves steering *Mr Wimpy* across a screen of bouncing manholes, collecting ingredients for the burgers. If you manage this, then *Mr Wimpy* has to actually make the burgers by running across them and dropping them onto the plates below. Some of the other ingredients resent this and chase him around the screen — the egg is particularly nasty.

The game is excellently done with graphics more or less as good as those from *Ultimate*, and includes a demo mode and options to use nearly every kind of joystick.

Program Mr Wimpy
Price £5.90
Micro Spectrum 48K
Supplier Ocean Software
 Ralli Building
 Stanley Street
 Manchester M3 5FD

New Releases is designed to let people know what software is coming on to the market. If you have a new game or utility which you are about to release send a copy and accompanying details to: *New Releases*, Popular Computing Weekly, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.

This Week

Program	Type	Micro	Price	Supplier
1984	■	Spectrum	£5.95	Incentive
Air Traffic Control	■	BBC B	£6.00	Microdeal
Air Traffic Control	■	Dragon 32	£6.00	Microdeal
Alien Break-In	Arc	Electron	£6.99	Romik
Andromeda	Arc	Dragon 32	£6.95	Sphinx
Assignment East				
Berlin	Ad	Spectrum	£5.95	Link
Astroplaner	Arc	Spectrum	£5.95	Romik
Atom Smasher	Arc	Electron	£6.99	Romik
Bank Robber	Arc	ZX81	£4.95	Romik
Barcharts	Ult	Spectrum	£12.00	Orange
Birds of Prey	Arc	Electron	£6.99	Romik
Bubble Trouble	Arc	Spectrum	£5.95	Arcade
Cassie				
Frankenstein	Ad	BBC	£8.45	Epic
Centipede	Arc	ZX81	£3.50	Quantum
Chicarico	Ed	BBC	£7.95	Screenplay
Chuckie Egg	Arc	Dragon 32	£6.95	A & F
City	■	Spectrum	£6.95	Terminal
Composer	Ult	Oric	£6.50	Sector 7
Dancing Feats	■	Commodore 64	£5.95	Artic
Farmer	Arc	Spectrum	£5.95	Link
Fighter Pilot	S	Spectrum	£7.95	Digital Integration
Flight 015	S	Vic 20	£5.95	AVS
Forty Niner	Arc	ZX81	£6.95	Software Farm
Graphs	Ult	Spectrum	£12.00	Orange
Hydrus	Arc	Dragon 32	£4.95	Sphinx
Illustrator	Ult	BBC	£9.95	Screenplay
Jogger	Arc	Oric/Spectrum	£6.95	Seven
Junior Word				
Spills	Ed	BBC B	£6.95	Sulis
Just a Mot	■	Spectrum/BBC	£9.95	Sulis
Keydefine	Ult	Spectrum	£6.95	Scientific
Loch Ness				
Monsiers	Arc	Oric 48K	£6.95	Romik
Mad Monty	Arc	Dragon 32	£7.50	Screenplay
Magic Meanies	Arc	Spectrum	£5.95	CDS
Mothership	Arc	Commodore 64	£6.95	Artic
Mountains of Kat	Ad	Spectrum	£6.50	Incentive
Nostratu	Ad	Vic20	£6.95	Terminal
Paddington's Picture Problem	Ed	Spectrum	£6.10	Collins
Paddington's Shopping Mix Up	■	Spectrum	£6.10	Collins
Paddington and the Disappearing Ink	■	Spectrum	£6.10	Collins
Paddington's Early Visit	Ed	Spectrum	£6.10	Collins
Pirates	■	BBC	£7.95	Screenplay
Pottif	Arc	Commodore 64	£6.99	Romik
Revenge	Arc	Commodore 64	£7.50	Lamassof
Royal Birkdale	■	Spectrum	£6.95	Ocean
Scuba Dive	Arc	Spectrum	£5.50	Durrell
Space Shuttle	■	BBC B	£8.00	Microdeal
Sprite Master	Ult	BBC B	£6.95	Soft Machine
The Grammer Tree	■	BBC/Spectrum	£10.95	Sulis
The Kingdom of Klein	Ad	BBC	£6.45	Epic
The Quest for the Holy Grail	Ad	BBC	£6.45	Epic

Top 10

BBC*

- 1 (3) Rocket Reld (Acornsoft)
 - 2 (1) Planet Gorilla (Program Power)
 - 3 (—) Kill Gorilla (Acornsoft)
 - 4 (9) Monsters (Acornsoft)
 - 5 (4) Chopper (Acornsoft)
 - 6 (—) Flight Simulator (DACC)
 - 7 (8) White Knight Mix 2 (BBC)
 - 8 (—) Sphinx Adventure (Acornsoft)
 - 9 (2) Hopper (Acornsoft)
 - 10 (—) Disc Doctor (Computer Concepts)
- *All model B. *Rom. (Figures compiled by Micro Management Ipswich 0473 59181)

Top 10

Atari

- 1 (3) Zaxxon (Datasoft)
 - 2 (1) Miner 2049er (Big Five)
 - 3 (—) Poytan (Sierra On-Line)
 - 4 (—) Star Wars (Sierra On-Line)
 - 5 (—) Enchanter (Infocom)
 - 6 (—) Planet Fall (Infocom)
 - 7 (—) Golden Baton (Channel 4)
 - 8 (10) Preppie (Adventure International)
 - 9 (—) Firefall (English)
 - 10 (—) Silicon Warrior (Epyx)
- *Cartridge, 128K cassette, £48K disc. (Figures compiled by Celato Computers, Birmingham 021-632 6498)

Spectrum

- 1 (2) Atac Atac (Ultimate)
 - 2 (3) The Pyramid (Fantasy)
 - 3 (1) Chequered Flag (Pison)
 - 4 (9) Flight Simulation (Pison)
 - 5 (—) Space Mission (Bug Byte)
 - 6 (4) 3D Ant Attack (Quicksilver)
 - 7 (6) Lunar Jetman (Ultimate)
 - 8 (—) Pool (DS)
 - 9 (5) Kong (Ocean)
 - 10 (8) Split! (Incentive)
- *Requires 48K (Figures compiled by WH Smith and Son London)

Books

- 1 (2) Spectrum Microdrive Book, Logan (Melbourne House)
 - 2 (—) Advanced User Guide for the BBC Micro, Bray (Cambridge Micro Centre)
 - 3 (4) Advanced Graphics for the ZX Spectrum, Argall and Jones (Macmillan)
 - 4 (—) Structured Programming with BBC Basic, Atherton (Hodder)
 - 5 (1) Basic Programming for the BBC Micro, Atherton (Prentice Hall)
 - 6 (—) Advanced Micro-graphics on the BBC Micro, Cryer (Prentice Hall)
 - 7 (—) Anatomy of the Dragon, James (Sigma)
 - 8 (—) Spectrum Hardware Manual, Dickens (Melbourne House)
 - 9 (—) Spectrum Language Programming, Leventhal (Osborne)
 - 10 (—) Z80 Assembly Language Programming on the BBC Micro, Bimbaum (Macmillan)
- (Figures compiled by Watford Technical Books, Watford 0923 23324 Prestel 28844) (Last week a position in brackets)

Book Ends



EXPERT

Ninety percent of the time, when we consult experts for advice, all we are really doing is asking for a fact derived from a series of known other facts; eg find an illness that produces symptoms x, y, and z but not a, b, and c = whatever. The often highly paid, professional is being asked to do no more than a computer running a fairly simple program — manipulate a lot of data. Hence expert systems.

The idea of the expert system is to use computers for just this task — giving them large databases of information from which they match known facts with your answers to a series of questions, producing a conclusion.

Even on a microcomputer it is now possible (using disc drives) to produce expert systems for some simple purposes.

All this is by way of justification for saying that *Build your own Expert System* by Chris Naylor is one of the most interesting new books I've read recently — it contains lots of useful information, as well as mini expert-system listings for the Apple and Spectrum.

Book	Build your own Expert System
Price	£6.95
Micro	General (programs Spectrum and Apple)
Supplier	John Wiley & Sons Baffins Lane Chichester West Sussex England PO19 1UD

STRUCTURE

As we all know, the BBC has excellent Basic which allows for things like structured programming and other delights by the use of Procedures.

A book devoted to this subject is *Using BBC Basic* which looks a definitive guide to the subject.

It is the sort of book you would buy after you have read through the "absolute moron's guide to making the machine do something" type books. It deals with things like turtle graphics, data types, use of Goto's, function definitions, interfaces and so on.

Book	Using BBC Basic
Price	£6.95
Micro	BBC
Supplier	John Wiley & Sons Baffins Lane Chichester West Sussex England PO19 1UD

Titles and Listings **Ult** **Spectrum** £12.00 **Orange**
Wilfred **S** **Spectrum** £5.95 **Microbyte**
Wordpower **Ed** **Spectrum** £9.95 **Sulis**
Zappy Zook's **Arc** **Commodore 64** £6.99 **Romik**

This Week is a new section that covers all the new software coming on to the home micro market each week. All suppliers should send details of their new programs to: This Week, Popular Computing Weekly, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.

Key: Ad — adventure/Arc — arcade/Ed — education/
S — strategy-simulation/Ult — utility

Top 10

Dragon

- 1 (2) Mined Out (Quicksilver)
 - 2 (1) Pettigrew's Diary (Shards)
 - 3 (—) Night Flight (Salamander)
 - 4 (7) Ring of Darkness (Wintersoft)
 - 5 (3) Enchanter (Hewson)
 - 6 (—) Planet Fall (Silverstone)
 - 7 (—) Golden Baton (Peaksoft)
 - 8 (10) Champions (Peaksoft)
 - 9 (—) Lionheart (Peaksoft)
 - 10 (—) Frogger (Microdeal)
- (Figures compiled by Boots & Co/Websters)

(Figures compiled by Boots & Co/Websters)

Top 10

Vic 20

- 1 (2) Arcadia (Imagine)
 - 2 (9) Wizard and the Princess (Melbourne House)
 - 3 (1) Wacky Walters (Imagine)
 - 4 (—) Lazerzone (Lamassof)
 - 5 (—) Gridrunner (Lamassof)
 - 6 (7) Skyhawk (Quicksilver)
 - 7 (8) Sargeon II Chess (Commodore)
 - 8 (9) Money Manager (Commodore)
 - 9 (—) Panic (BugByte)
- (Figures compiled by Boots & Co/Websters)

(Figures compiled by Boots & Co/Websters)

ZX81*

- 1 (4) Defender (Quicksilver)
 - 2 (1) Asteroids (Quicksilver)
 - 3 (1) Asteroids (Softbyte)
 - 4 (—) Space Invaders (Softbyte)
 - 5 (9) 1K Chess (Aaric)
 - 6 (8) Space Raiders (Pison)
 - 7 (—) Fantasy Games (Pison)
 - 8 (7) Invaders (Quicksilver)
 - 9 (—) Inca Curse (Artic)
 - 10 (—) ZX Fort (Artic)
- *All run in 16K, 11K only. (Figures compiled by Boots & Co/Websters)

POPULAR COMPUTING WEEKLY

Ziggurat



Basic search

We continue our search for the ideal micro-computer language — plagiarising the best features from other languages as we go.

The next language to come under scrutiny for its degree of perfection is Basic. Most people will probably already be familiar with standard Microsoft Basic — not very inspiring now I'm afraid. But both BBC Basic and Sinclair Basic have some features that are worth considering.

One of the nicest things about BBC Basic — and many other Basic varieties — is its 'immediate mode'. Using this mode, a sequence of statements can be typed into the computer, without writing a program.

Traditional compiled languages, such as Pascal, can obviously not support this facility. Our perfect language is, however, available in both interpreted and compiled forms. The interpreted version will probably use a sophisticated screen editor for program entry. I personally favour the Sinclair-like approach of dividing the screen into two parts. The bottom region takes up a single line at the bottom of the screen, whilst the top section takes up the rest of the screen. The top region can be viewed as a window on to the source text, which can be scrolled and manipulated much like a simple word processor (for example, the BBC Micro's WordWise). If the cursor is moved into the bottom region, immediate commands can be given, such as Run and the more complex editing commands, like Search and Replace.

BBC Basic will merrily convert integers to floating-point representation and vice versa to do a calculation. This feature, lacking from Pascal as we discussed last time, is well worth implementing.

On the whole, BBC Basic gives good error messages. However, our ideal language should really improve on them. Ideas include printing: No such variable as XXXX when an undefined variable is met. This way, errors like If A = B then Goto **** (from BBC Basic) will be easier to see. In addition, when an error occurs, the editor should be run, with the cursor over the error.

Another nice feature in BBC Basic is its speed. This is more to do with the interpreter than anything else. For example, in the handling of floating-point numbers it is often necessary to shift a number of bytes left by a certain number of bits.

BBC Basic examines the number of bits to be shifted (say N) and breaks it down to the number of bytes to be shifted ($N \text{ Div } 8$) and the number of bits ($N \text{ Mod } 7$). Thus, the worst case involves three byte shifts and seven bit shifts.

In contrast the Spectrum Rom, which is appallingly written from the point of view of speed and elegance, handles the same thing by carrying out the required number of shift instructions on each byte in turn. Thus, up to 32 shifts are required.

The conclusion to be drawn from all this is that our ideal language must be very carefully written. It would also make sense to design the language with the compiler and interpreter in mind. It would not be wise to limit the language to simplify the coding of the interpreter/compiler, but it would be intelligent to find another way of doing something that is sapping vast amounts of time and space in the compiler/interpreter.

A good feature of Sinclair Basic is the provision for syntax checking on entry. This only need be implemented on our interpreter, since the compiler will use the interpreter as the editor used to create the source program. Unfortunately, Spectrum syntax checking is carried out in a rather slow and laborious manner.

My solution is to employ simple recursive syntax checking, based on the popular Backus-Naur syntax diagrams.

One feature of most versions of Basic which is poor is the surfeit of available functions. I am more in favour of limiting the functions available and implementing others via outside libraries, which may be written in interpreted mode, assembly language or compiled code.

Jeremy Ruston

Puzzle

Santa tanned

Puzzle No 87

Stanley Albright has a seasonal occupation as Father Christmas in one of the nation's biggest department stores.

He prides himself on his authentic appearance with red tunic, yak hair beard and black wellie boots borrowed from his brother in the fire service.

Unfortunately, on Christmas Eve, at the height of the Christmas shopping rush, an unfortunate occurrence cast a shadow over Stanley's otherwise peaceful career. One little girl called Ann took violent exception to his appearance. Before Stanley could be rescued, she had seized one of the imitation conifers and was heavily belabouring him about the head. Temporarily blinded, Stanley staggered about the fairy grotto, crushing elves and pixies alike beneath his fireman's size tens.

The resulting pandemonium was reported the next day in the local paper under the headline ANN TANS STAN'S SANTA.

By adding some mathematical symbols it is possible to make a puzzle:

$$\text{ANN} + \text{TANS} + \text{STANS} = \text{SANTA}$$

Substituting numbers for letters, it is possible to make the equation make sense.

What are the numbers?

Solution to Puzzle No 87

The program generates sets of possible squares, with the variable, x, being the largest of each set of five. These sets are then checked to see if the linear total and area are equal.

```
10 FOR X = 1 TO 1200 FOR A = 1 TO X 30 FOR B = 1 TO X 40 FOR C = 1 TO X 50 FOR D = 1 TO X 60 IF D + C <= A + B + X THEN GOTO 100 70 IF C + C + D <= A + A + B + B + X THEN GOTO 100 80 PRINT X;" "A;" "B;" "C;" "D 100 NEXT D 110 NEXT X 120 NEXT X 130 NEXT A 140 NEXT C
```

If we disregard all sets of possible values containing similar sized squares, we arrive at the following eight possibilities: (6, 1, 2 and 4, 5); (8, 1, 3 and 5, 7); (10, 1, 4 and 6, 9); (10, 2, 3 and 7, 8); (12, 1, 5 and 7, 11); (12, 1, 6 and 9, 10); (12, 2, 3 and 6, 11); and (12, 2, 4 and 8, 10).

Winner of Puzzle No 82

The winner is: David Woodall, Toc H Services Club, BMH Berlin, BFPO 45, who receives £10.

I think I prefered the office party as it used to be....

by Steve Way



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 OF AUTOMATA'S



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 AND OUR LITTLE PINK POLTRON AND HIS
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P.S. HOPE YOU LIKED OUR FREE "MORRIS" & "GROUCHO" POSTER - CHRISTMAS PRESENTS LAST WEEK!

